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Local

Camacho trial in July

By **KIMBERLY B. ESMORES**
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The trial in the pending criminal case of Rep. Vicente Camacho (D-Saipan) has been set for July.

Superior Court Associate Judge Kenneth Govendo also set the criminal case against Camacho and his co-defendant, Tiepo Nikiti, for a bench trial instead of a jury trial, which is set to begin on July 17, at 9am.

The judge issues the verdict in a bench trial. A jury, on the other hand, decides in a jury trial.

Camacho and Nikiti face charges for allegedly assaulting Commonwealth Ports Authority master electrician Steven Koch while he was on a walk with his daughter on the evening of Oct. 29, near their home in China Town.

Camacho, 60, was arrested by the Department of Public Safety on the evening of Nov. 2, 2021, but he is out on a \$1,250 bail.

Due to the alleged assault, Koch reportedly suffered abrasions, bruising, and pain in his head and body from the blows, and was taken to the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. for examination.

On Nov. 1, Koch, his wife and daughter asked the Superior Court to issue



Camacho

a temporary restraining order against Camacho, Nikiti, Ignacio "Ike" S. Concepcion, and Fiel Reynaldo Ortiz.

This was later granted, with Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho issuing a TRO and a one-year protective order against Camacho, Nikiti, Concepcion, and Ortiz.

The assault incident is believed to have stemmed from a longstanding animosity between Koch and his brother-in-law, Concepcion.

According to court documents, there had been animosity between Concepcion and his siblings, including Koch's wife, Magdalena Concepcion-Koch. Camacho, who is also related to Concepcion, allegedly aligned himself with Concepcion, inserting himself in the family's feud.

"Camacho, for his part, has [been] injecting himself into the Concepcion family matters as he has aligned himself with Concepcion," court documents stated.

On Oct. 29, Koch alleges that two altercations happened; one between him and Concepcion, and the other was the alleged beating led by Camacho.

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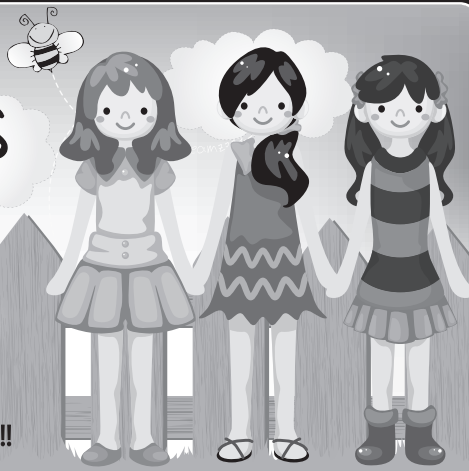
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NMC holds Sands of Time ceremony for biz graduates

By **LEIGH GASES**
leigh_gases@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Northern Marianas College School of Business held its Sands of Time Ceremony for its Bachelor of Science in Business Management graduates last Wednesday night at the Saipan World Resort Taga Hall.



The ceremony, which entailed each student pouring sand into a ceremonial vase and each graduate being introduced with a word that best describes them and their journey, was attended by the graduates' family and friends

and NMC faculty and staff.

The graduating students are Nadyne Dabu Ahas, Jhairo Alon-Alon, Joan Marie Alvarico, Junelyn Carnaje, Xu Lucy Chen, Rachell Ann Coting, Tania Sophia David, Jessy Dela Cruz, Maritoni Duarte, Yuri Fukushima, Kyle Merrill Garcia, Maene Iakopo, Dimitri Kaipat, Charleston Kim,

Jim Lacsina, Rosalyn Ladra, Duncan Laxa, Frank Li, Junnan Li, Limeng Liu, Naureen Lozada, Nemerlyn Magat, Irvyn Malonzo, Yuta Mizuno, Lauren Montilla, Ranya Oh, Christine Pangelinan, Jenine Perena, Jelbert Quitugua, Tins Relevante, Ezekiel Rubio, Arni Salinas, Elijah San Jose, Shannan Sasamoto, Annaly

Sebastian, Beah Sebio, Joseph Sion, Patcha Trakulchang, Vincent Tudela Jr., Julia Yasuda, Ni Yin, and Jing Zhao.

The event's keynote speaker was Joe C. Guerrero, owner of Transcends, LLC.

These 42 students will receive their Bachelor of Science degrees in Business Management today during NMC's 42nd Commencement Exercise at the Marianas High School gymnasium at 4pm.



LEIGH GASES

The Sands of Time Ceremony required each student to pour sand into a ceremonial vase, with each graduate being introduced with a word that best describes them and their journey.

NMC's 42nd Commencement Exercise today

Northern Marianas College's 42nd Commencement Exercise will be held on Friday, May 19, 2023, at the Marianas High School Gymnasium. The event

will start at 4pm and will include the conferral of associate and bachelor degrees to the members of NMC's Class of 2023.

Family and friends who

would like to view the ceremony online can log on to facebook.com/NMC.Proa. The live stream will start at 4pm ChST. (NMC)

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CUC board OKs RFP for Tinian temporary power generation



FIELD TRIP

A group of William S. Reyes Elementary School fifth graders poses for a picture in front of the Office of the Governor during a field trip yesterday morning to Capital Hill. The field trip allowed the students to learn more about the CNMI government and the Executive Branch.

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. board of directors has approved the request of the CUC management to authorize it to issue a request for proposal for a temporary power generation provider on Tinian.

Saipan Tribune learned yesterday that the vote for the board was just for the format of the bidding process.

Acting CUC executive director Betty G. Terlaje said in an interview Wednesday that the interim power generation provider is needed while some of the Telesource CNMI Inc.'s engines—which provides power on Tinian—get as-

sessed and overhauled as necessary.

"We're taking over Telesource. We have to do our assessment while we're overhauling Telesource engines," Terlaje said.

Tinian's power generation and distribution program is managed through a power purchase agreement with Telesource, an independent power provider. Telesource's 20-megawatt diesel power plant reportedly generates an average of 1.9 megawatt per day. Telesource's \$21.6-million contract to build and operate the power plant started in 1997.

In April 2020, CUC extended for two years Telesource's contract to run CUC's power plant on Tinian. The contract ended on April 1, 2022.

TINIAN

From Page 1

Marine Corps Air Station Futenma in Okinawa, Japan, last May 11.

VMM-262, also known as the "Flying Tigers," is an active-duty U.S. Marine Corps squadron of MV-22B tiltrotor aircraft. Tiltrotor is an aircraft that can take off and land like a helicopter, but fly fast like an airplane.

Gov. Arnold I. Palacios and Lt. Gov. David M. Apatang congratulated Evangelista as he assumes his new role. Palacios said Evangelista will play a critically important part in ensuring the nation's safety and security in his new role.

"His leadership is a testament of our islands' sons and daughters' commitment to serve and protect," said the governor in a statement yesterday.

Palacios said that Evangelista's high-level recognition will also serve as an inspiration to generations of the CNMI servicemen and women who want to advance personally and professionally through the armed forces.

Sen. Jude U. Hofschneider (R-Tinian), who is the vice chairman of the Tinian and Aguiguan Legislative Delegation, attended the change of command ceremony in Okinawa. He said yesterday that it was a historic event to witness one of the CNMI's own assume such a distinctive level of responsibility in the U.S. Armed Forces, especially during Asian and Pacific Islander Heritage Month.

Hofschneider said it was even more special to share the moment with several Marines, soldiers, airmen, and their families from the Commonwealth who were in attendance.

"We are extremely proud of Adrian for all his accomplishments and grateful for his service. He has undoubtedly blazed a trail for the youth in our Commonwealth," he said.

Sen. Francisco Q. Cruz (R-Tinian) and Rep. Patrick H. San Nicolas (R-Tinian), who accompanied Hofschneider at the event, shared the same sentiments.

Tinian and Aguiguan Mayor Edwin P. Aldan said yesterday it is always an exciting and proud moment for Tinian when they get to witness one of their own garner distinction and recognition through their hard work and perseverance in what they choose to do in life.

Aldan said Evangelista has served the U.S. Armed Forces for approxi-

mately 18 years, building his career and getting to where he is today.

The mayor said Evangelista is a son of Tinian, who they are exceptionally proud of for his commendable accomplishments.

He said Evangelista is an inspiration and a role model to many of the CNMI's young adults who have decided to join the U.S. Armed Forces.

"On behalf of the people of Tinian, I would like to extend our heartfelt congratulations to Lt. Col. Evangelista and thank you for continuing to serve our nation and defending the freedom of all its citizens," Aldan said.

Evangelista's success provides him the renowned privilege of many firsts.

Evangelista is Tinian's first U.S. Service Academy graduate. He is Tinian's first U.S. Naval Academy graduate. He is Tinian's first and currently the only U.S. Marine Corps officer. Evangelista is Tinian's first U.S. military pilot. He is Tinian's and the CNMI's first MV-22B Osprey pilot. He is Tinian's first U.S. military officer to reach the rank of lieutenant colonel. Evangelista is Tinian's first commanding officer at a squadron/battalion level. He is Tinian's and the CNMI's first operational and combat deployable aircrafts squadron commander at the 0-5 level from across all military branches.

Evangelista is Tinian's and the Commonwealth's first operational and combat deployable aircraft squadron commander in the U.S. Marine Corps. He is also Tinian's and the CNMI's first V-22 Tiltrotor aircraft Squadron commander.

Evangelista, a native of the CNMI, was born on Saipan and raised on Tinian. He graduated from Tinian High School in June 2000. He earned his officer commission in the U.S. Marine Corps upon graduating from the U.S. Naval Academy in May 2005.

Following his initial officer training, he completed pilot training and received his Naval Aviator wings in April 2008.

In March 2021, Evangelista reported to the Deputy Commandant for Aviation, Headquarters Marine Corps, Pentagon to assume duties as International Plans and Policies Officer. In October 2021, he was promoted to his current rank.

In May 2022, he returned to Okinawa and assumed duties as commanding officer of Personnel Support Detachment, MAG-36.

CCC

From Page 1

casino licensee, Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC, so this is not the time to dismantle the CCC's structure, according to CCC board chair Edward C. DeLeon Guerrero.

On the contrary, DeLeon Guerrero said, this is the time for the CNMI government to come to the aid of CCC in this "difficult and desperate time" in its efforts to implement and enforce the Commonwealth's gaming laws and regulations.

DeLeon Guerrero underscored the need for the government to help CCC in his comments opposing the passage of Senate Bill 23-28, which seeks to provide part-time compensation for the CCC commissioners.

Authored by Sen. Paul A. Manglona (Ind-Rota), S.B. 23-28 states that the CCC expends \$65,000 per annum for each commissioner's compensation, for a total of \$325,000.

Manglona said the commissioners continue to receive compensation, even though CCC's office is closed, no work

is being performed, and no revenue is being collected from the casino, which remains closed since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic.

In comments submitted to the Senate Resources, Economic Development, and Programs Committee, and to the Gaming Committee, DeLeon Guerrero said the bill's findings that the CCC commissioners' compensation is an immense financial burden to the CNMI government is erroneous and is factually incorrect, considering that the government appropriates \$1 a year for the CCC's personnel and operational costs.

He said making the CCC a part-time entity would not fulfill nor accomplish the intent of the legislation that allowed the casino in the CNMI in the first place.

The chairman noted that the commission is currently in the midst of resolving its ongoing litigations and disputes with IPI and that the arbitration ordered by U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona has been scheduled for May 23 to 25, 2023.

He said their appeal on this matter

to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit has also been scheduled for June 8, 2023.

The chairman pointed out that it is his understanding that the CCC is the only CNMI government entity trying to hold IPI to honor its obligations as required by Commonwealth gaming laws and by the Casino License Agreement.

DeLeon Guerrero said there are ongoing discussions about re-examining the benefits and disadvantages of having an exclusive license versus entertaining the concept of authorizing additional casino licenses.

He said the casino industry is a 24/7 operations, seven days a week, year-round.

"Rather than making the regulatory body a part-time entity, our Commonwealth government should try to strengthen the agency and let the world know that we are serious about enforcing our gaming laws," he said.

DeLeon Guerrero urged the Executive Branch and Legislature to demonstrate their strong support and commitment for an effective and efficient gaming regulatory regime.

TORRES

From Page 1

According to a proposed amended information, the prosecution, led by special prosecutor James Kingman, is looking at filing 37 additional charges against Torres to include misconduct in public office, perjury, and theft charges. The prosecution is also looking at refiling the previously dismissed contempt charge.

Saipan Tribune managed to obtain a copy of a proposed amended information. The court, however, has yet to officially accept and approve the proposed amended information.

Torres' defense team opposes the prosecution's request to amend the charges against the former governor.

The proposed amended information cites 24 new counts of misconduct in public office, 11 counts of perjury, one count of theft by deception, and one count of theft of utility services.

The proposed amended information cites three new counts of miscon-

duct in public office relating to the issuance of airline tickets for business class, first class, or other premium class travel for himself from February 2016 to June 2017.

The prosecution cited two counts of misconduct in public office relating to the use of public funds, time, personnel, or equipment for political or campaign activities.

In addition, Torres possibly faces 11 counts of misconduct in public office in relation to memorandums submitted to former Finance secretaries David Atalig and Larissa Larson to authorize reimbursement.

Torres also possibly faces four counts of misconduct in public office in relation to his alleged involvement in the release of a captive deer, one count of misconduct in public office for allegedly authorizing a special permit for out-of-season collection of coconut crabs, one count of misconduct in public office for allegedly issuing a special permit to land on Asuncion Island and finally one count of misconduct in public office in relation to the authorization

to use government vehicles for purposes other than official government business.

The special prosecutor also proposes 11 counts of perjury in relation to false declarations made on memorandums submitted to Atalig and Larson to authorize reimbursement.

According to the proposed amended information, the special prosecution also alleges theft by deception in relation to fraudulent reimbursement memos; and theft of utilities services for allegedly obtaining utility services for himself in the amount of \$20,000 under the color of office.

The initial information against Torres involved 12 counts of misconduct in public office and one count of theft relating to the issuance of airline tickets for business class, first class, or other premium class travel for himself and/or first lady Diann T. Torres.

The prosecution also alleged one count of contempt for failure to appear in compliance with a subpoena but Superior Court judge pro tem Alberto Tolentino has since dismissed that charge.

Man sues companies for alleged labor law violations

By **KIMBERLY B. ESMORES**
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A man has filed a lawsuit in the U.S. District Court for the NMI against establishments he has worked for on claims that they violated the Fair Labor Standards Act by paying him significantly less than the minimum wage.

Abu Yousuf, through his lawyer, Joe Hill, is suing Long Feng Corp., which operates the New XO Market and Party Poker, for allegedly violating the FLSA

by paying him less than the CNMI's minimum wage.

Yousuf claims that, while working for New XO Market and Party Poker for over three years, he was paid \$4.25 per hour when the CNMI's minimum wage at the time was \$7.25.

In addition, Yousuf is also suing Guo Wu Li, Xu Gui Qing, and Feloteo V. Ran Ada, who run the NVM Enterprises, a manpower agency that hired Yousuf and got him a job at New XO and Party Poker. He ac-

cuses the manpower agency of involvement in the alleged scheme to violate the FLSA.

As relief, Yousuf is asking the court to find the defendants liable and order them to pay him the unpaid minimum and overtime wages owed for all the hours he worked in excess of 40 hours in each work week, in an amount to be de-

termined at trial.

Yousuf also wants the defendants to be found liable and ordered to pay him liquidated damages, compensatory and punitive damages, prejudgment and post-judgment interest, and attorney's fees and costs.

"Plaintiff alleges and avers that defendants knowingly and willfully paid him a flat rate of \$4.25 per hour for

regular hours worked and for overtime hours worked. Plaintiff therefore seeks and prays for an order and award of compensatory damages for unpaid minimum wages and unpaid overtime, plus liquidated damages..." said Hill.

According to the lawsuit, Yousuf claims that his employers knowingly, willfully, intentionally, and deliber-

ately refused and failed to pay him at the rate required under the FLSA.

Yousuf, who is a Bangladesh citizen, says he worked for Long Feng Corp. as a security guard and/or bagger, and as a general laborer, from April 27, 2018, to Feb. 19, 2021. He claims that he worked as a non-exempt employee earning a flat rate of \$4.25 per hour.

\$20K bail for two men accused of theft

By **KIMBERLY B. ESMORES**
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REPORTER

The Superior Court has imposed a \$10,000 cash bail each on two men accused of burglary and theft.

Superior Court Associate Judge Teresa Kim-Tenorio imposed last week a \$10,000 cash bail each on McPeterson Tipingeni and Jeffrey Lizama, who are separately facing charges of burglary and theft.

Tipingeni, 30, is accused of taking two unopened boxes of butane gas, one black bag containing various tools, and an orange SkilSaw set valued at \$300 from an apartment in Garapan. Liza-

ma, 28, is accused of taking two cellphones, binoculars, and \$30 cash from another apartment in Garapan.

Assistant attorney general Heather Barcinas appeared for the government at the bail hearing, while the Public Defender's Office represented the defendants.

Following the bail hearing, Kim-Tenorio remanded both defendants back to Department of Corrections custody and ordered them to return to court for an arraignment on May 22.

According to court documents, both men were caught on surveillance cameras burglarizing the apartment complex.

Man sues golfing range after slipping into pond

By **KIMBERLY B. ESMORES**
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REPORTER

A man who was golfing at the Kingfisher Golf Links back in March 2022 is suing the golfing range for negligence in the amount of \$300,000 after he slipped and fell into a dry pond.

Chae Hwang Park, through Matthew Holley, has filed a civil lawsuit against Kingfisher Golf Links in the Superior Court, alleging negligence.

As relief, Park is asking the Superior Court to award him \$300,000 for non-economic damages such as pain and suffering, emotional distress, and diminished quality of life.

As an alternative, Park is asking the court to order mandatory mediation between Kingfisher and the plaintiff.

In addition, Park is seeking present and future economic

and non-economic damages in an amount to be proven at trial.

According court documents, the alleged inci-

dent happened on or about March 3, 2022.

Holley said defendant knew or should have known

that the pond should have been filled with water and that having the pond, while empty, created an invitation for the customers to retrieve their golf balls.



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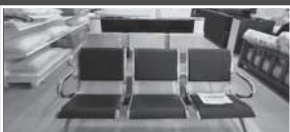
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NMC holds pinning ceremony for nursing graduates

LEIGH GASES

The 2023 Northern Marianas College School of Nursing graduates (15 graduates present out of 17), take their Nightingale Pledge during the NMC School of Nursing Pinning and Lamp Lighting Ceremony at the Saipan World Resort Taga Hall on Tuesday night.



LEIGH GASES

The Community Service Awards is presented to Pearl Lauritzen (Chenfang Cong), sixth from left; Katrina Joy Alegre Valencia, center; and Huihong "May" Yang, sixth from right, during the Northern Marianas College School of Nursing Pinning and Lamp Lighting Ceremony for 17 of their graduates at the Saipan World Resort Taga Hall on Tuesday night.

The Northern Marianas College hosted the NMC School of Nursing Pinning and Lamp

Lighting Ceremony for 17 of their graduates at the Saipan World Resort Taga Hall last

Tuesday night in a rite that signals they are about to graduate. The graduates are Patricia



LEIGH GASES

Jan Emmanuel Bobadilla, center, who is the NMC Nursing Club president, is presented with the Academic Excellence Award and the Student Leadership Award during the Northern Marianas College School of Nursing Pinning and Lamp Lighting Ceremony at the Saipan World Resort Taga Hall on Tuesday night.

Aldan Atalig, Jan Emmanuel Dela Cruz Bobadilla, Jeanica Dacanay Bonachita, Jenikah

Elayda Durano, Minju Kim, Keejoon Koh, Claudilyn Tampus Lacbayo, Pearl Lauritzen (Chenfang Cong), Gabrielle Mekayla Mills, Lesley Ann Condino Rapiz, Redz Nissi Miranda Rivera, Ysabella Marie Francisco Sacramento, Abbas Shakir, Maya Soriano Shimizu, Rachele Ann Cunanan Manlapaz, Katrina Joy Alegre Valencia, and Huihong "May" Yang. Shakir and Koh were unable to attend Tuesday's ceremony.

Bobadilla, who is the Nursing Club president, was presented with the Academic Excellence Award and the Student Leadership Award.

The Community Service Award went to Valencia, Yang, and Lauritzen.

The Best In Clinical Award went to Shakir.

NMC's Nursing Department chair Rosa Aldan, who was unable to attend in person, gave her welcoming remarks via a video message. Nursing adjunct faculty Dr. Annie Camacho gave the keynote speech.

NMC's 42nd Commencement Exercise will be held today, May 19, 2023, at the Marianas High School Gymnasium. The event will start at 4pm.



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PROJECT NO. CPA-IFB-003-23

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Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport

"Retail Concession"

CPA-RFP-005-23

for:

CPA Concession No. RCA-2022-01

The Commonwealth Ports Authority ("CPA" or "Authority") is soliciting proposals for the award of one (1) concession granting the privilege to provide retail services to the traveling public at the Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport ("Retail Concession"). The successful proposer will be expected to provide retail services in accordance with its concession and concession agreement at the Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport for a period of Three (3) years upon entering into a concession agreement with the Authority.

The date of issuance of CPA-RFP-005-23 is **April 20, 2023**, and it can be obtained at the issuing office: CPA Administration Office, Saipan International Airport, P.O. Box 501055, Saipan, MP 96950, Second floor of Arrival terminal at the Saipan International Airport or at the administration office at the Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport.

Proposals must be addressed to Commonwealth Ports Authority, Attn: Retail Concessions Evaluation Committee, CPA Administration Office, Saipan International Airport, P.O. Box 501055, Saipan, MP 96950; and submitted to and received by the CPA Administration Office (second floor of arrival terminal at the Saipan International Airport) **by or before 4:00 p.m. on May 23, 2023**, at which time the proposal period shall expire. Proposals must be accompanied with a non-refundable administrative fee of \$50.00. Payment shall be made in cash, credit card, or cashier's check payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority to defray the costs associated with handling and considering the proposal. Proposals are not required to include a prepaid minimum concession fee.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to cancel this RFP and to reject any and all proposals in accordance with its Concession Regulations (NMIAC Chapter 40-70).

/s/
CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Executive Director

NMC alumna earns Military Excellence Award at RTC

By ALAN NUNN

RECRUIT TRAINING COMMAND PUBLIC AFFAIRS

GREAT LAKES—Seaman recruit Lili Duan graduated as the top sailor from Recruit Training Command, earning the Military Excellence Award last May 12.

Duan, from Saipan in the Northern Marianas Islands, joined the Navy to serve the country and inspire others.

"I've always had Navy pride and I believe it is everyone's responsibility to protect our nation," Duan said. "I want to inspire my daughter that it is never too late to follow your dream."

Duan graduated summa cum laude from the Northern Marianas College, earning a bachelor's degree in business management in 2020.

Duan was employed as an administrative manager at the college and is fluent in English, Mandarin, and Korean.

Duan is assigned to the rate of yeoman.

The Navy Club of the United States Military Excellence Award is the top award presented to the recruit that best exemplifies the qualities of enthusiasm, devotion to duty, military bearing and teamwork. The award places Duan at the pinnacle of today's newest sailors.

Duan is awarded a flag letter of commendation as part of this recognition.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Seaman recruit Lili Duan, who graduated summa cum laude from the Northern Marianas College, has graduated as the top sailor from Recruit Training Command, earning the Military Excellence Award.

Duan is proud to receive the MEA. "I consider it a milestone in my life," she said. "It proved what I have always believed—you will receive good results for all your hard work and to keep trying your best."

Duan credited her Recruit Division Commanders, Chief Electronics Technician Chelsea Cooper, Chief Logistics Specialist Collin David, and Aviation Maintenance Administration 1st Class Andy Chandarath for their leadership and guidance.

Being a maternal role model motivated Duan throughout boot camp.

"I want to be a good example to my 7-year-old, Sophia," she said. "I want to inspire her not to quit easily, just take the hits, and keep moving."

Duan said the most chal-

lenging part of boot camp was learning a new way of life.

"The daily schedule is long and intense," she said. "There are new ways of communicating, new living environments, new food, and so much more.

It was a shock for me physically and mentally. I calmed myself down and figured it would be a good opportunity to create good habits that will benefit my future."

After graduation, Duan will attend Yeoman "A" School in Meridian, Mississippi. Yeomen perform secretarial, administrative and clerical work.

Boot camp is approximately 10 weeks and all enlistees into the U.S. Navy begin their careers at the command. Training includes five warfighting competencies of firefighting, damage control, seamanship,

watchstanding, and small arms handling and marksmanship along with physical fitness and lessons in Navy heritage and core values, Warrior Toughness, Life Skills teamwork and discipline. More than 40,000 recruits train annually at the Navy's only boot camp.

**PROCUREMENT SERVICES
CNMI GOVERNMENT**

INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB23-DPL/RT-42300044

SUBMISSION DATE: JUNE 12, 2023 TIME: 10:00 A.M.
"DPL'S Rota District Office Space Rental"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED ON THE MUNIS VENDOR SELF SERVICE PORTAL (<https://selfservice.dof.gov.mp/vss/>) OR AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES, LOCATED AT HORIGUCHI BLDG, GROUND FLOOR, 123 KOPPA DI ORU & BEACH ROAD, GARAPAN, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT

/s/ TERESITA A. SANTOS
DPL SECRETARY

/s/ BRIEN S. NICHOLAS JR.
ACTING DIRECTOR, P.S.

**Department of Finance
Division of Procurement Services**

P.O. Box 10008 C.K. Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: (670) 664-1500 • Fax: (670) 664-1515

NOTICE

OFFICE CLOSURE

This is to inform the general public and vendors that the Department of Finance, **Division of Procurement Services** located at the Horiguchi Building will be closed on **May 30 – 31, 2023** due to relocation to Capitol Hill, DCCA – Arts Council Office.

We will resume normal operations on **June 01, 2023** at the DCCA – Arts Council Office in Capitol Hill Building #12552.

Your cooperation and understanding is greatly appreciated.

/s/ **Brien S. Nicholas, Jr.**
Acting Director, Procurement Services

COMMONWEALTH UTILITIES CORPORATION
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

INVITATION FOR BIDS
CUC-IFB-23-015

**SUPPLY & DELIVERY OF POWER DISTRIBUTION
ANNUAL MATERIALS FOR CUC TINIAN, CNMI**

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified vendors for the Supply and Delivery of Power Distribution Annual Materials for CUC Tinian, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Prospective Bidders must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$100.00 (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

CUC may award a contract to more than one firm for the materials, based on bids for "Commodity Groups".

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-IFB-23-015, Supply & Delivery of Power Distribution Annual Materials for CUC Tinian, CNMI" to CUC Procurement & Supply Division, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Dandan, Saipan MP 96950, **no later than 10:00 a.m. (ChST) on June 12, 2023**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered. An electronic copy of the entire submission is also required to be sent via email to CUC Procurement & Supply Division via email address, marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org.

A Bid Guarantee of not less than fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury or other surety acceptable to the Attorney General. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). *Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.*

This Invitation for Bids does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of bids in anticipation of a contract. Bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract. Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations. All responses to this Invitation for Bids should take into account any and all taxes, including excise tax, which will become the obligation of the bidder, awarded a contract.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from registered bidders and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on May 22, 2023** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator, via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org, with a copy to Evelyn Manglona, CUC Tinian Resident Manager, via email evelyn.manglona@cucgov.org, Louella Mundo, CUC Warehouse Technician via email louella.mundo@cucgov.org and Marcela Tenorio, CUC Senior Administrative Technician at marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids for any reason and waive any defects in said bid proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

BETTINA G. TERLAJE
 Acting Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
 Purchasing Administrator

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SP22R0013
2019 Hyundai Tucson SE FWD Sport Utility
\$14,999*

SP23F0052
2022 Toyota Corolla LE FWD 4dr Car
\$22,999*

SP23F0057
2019 Toyota RAV4 LE FWD Sport Utility
\$21,999*

SP23R0065
2019 Mazda CX-5 Sport FWD Sport Utility
\$19,999*

*Terms and conditions apply. See dealer for details.
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(670) 234-5911

Showroom Hours:
Monday to Saturday 8am to 5 pm

HERE FOR SAIPAN. HERE FOR LIFE.

\$1.4M awarded to NMI in ‘Internet for All’ planning grants

WASHINGTON—The Department of Commerce’s National Telecommunications and Information Administration announced that the Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands received planning grants for deploying high-speed Internet service networks and developing digital skills training programs under the Biden-Harris Administration’s “Internet for All” initiative.

The CNMI is receiving \$1.4 million in funding from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, signed by President Joe Biden, to plan for the deployment and adoption of affordable, equitable, and reliable high-speed Internet service throughout the territory.

“As part of President Biden’s investing in America

agenda, these planning grants will help bring affordable, reliable high-speed Internet service to the Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands,” said Commerce Secretary Gina Raimondo. “Residents across the 14 islands will benefit from the educational, economic, and healthcare opportunities of expanded Internet access. I thank Gov. [Arnold I.] Palacios for his commitment to closing the digital divide.”

All 50 U.S. states and six territories applied for planning grant funding for the Internet for All initiative’s Broadband, Equity, Access and Deployment program and the Digital Equity Act program. To date, NTIA has awarded more than \$308 million in planning grants to

states and territories.

About Northern Mariana Islands’ Planning Grants

Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment Program

The BEAD Program provides \$42.45 billion to expand high-speed Internet access by funding planning, infrastructure deployment and adoption programs.

Northern Mariana Islands will receive \$1.25 million to fund various activities, including:

- Increasing capacity of a broadband office that oversees broadband programs and broadband deployment in the CNMI;
- Creation of “OPD Broadband,” which will develop a Sustainable Development

Plan that will also serve as the Five-Year Action Plan for CNMI;

- Research and data collection to identify unserved and underserved locations as well as catalogue broadband adoption, affordability, equity, and access to better understand barriers to adoption;
- Publications, outreach, and communications support;
- Coordination with local communities in order to better understand barriers to adoption.

Digital Equity

The Digital Equity Act provides \$2.75 billion to establish three grant programs to ensure that all people and communities have the skills, technology, and capacity needed to reap the full benefits of our digital economy. The first part of NTIA’s execution of the Digital Equity Act is to fund digital equity planning efforts.

Northern Mariana Islands will receive \$150,000 to fund various activities to support closing the digital equity gap, including:

- Developing a robust Territory Digital Equity Plan that will benefit principally unserved and underserved populations in CNMI;
- Data collection, plan development, and plan rollout.

Internet for All


The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law includes a historic \$65 billion investment to expand affordable and reliable high-speed Internet access in communities across the U.S. In 2022, NTIA launched a series of new high-speed Internet

grant programs funded by the law that will build high-speed Internet infrastructure across the country, create more low-cost high-speed Internet service options, and address the digital equity and inclusion needs in our communities.


Additionally, the Federal Communications Commission’s Affordable Connect

tivity Program provides a discount of up to \$30 per month toward Internet service for eligible households and up to \$75 per month for households on qualifying Tribal lands. Visit [Getinternet.gov](https://www.getinternet.gov) to learn more.

For more information on the Biden-Harris Administration’s high-speed Internet service programs, visit [InternetforAll.gov](https://www.InternetforAll.gov). (PR)



COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
CNMI GOVERNMENT
Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950 | Phone: (670) 237-6500 • Fax: (670) 234-5962
Website: www.cnmiports.com



NOTICE TO BIDDERS

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY (CPA) is inviting qualified contractors to submit their qualifications and bid proposals and their qualifications for the **FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT PASSENGER LOADING BRIDGES 1, 4 AND 5 REPLACEMENT, AIP NO. 3-69-0002-100, SAIPAN, COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS.**

Bidders are to submit one original and two copies of their bid which shall be sealed in an envelope and marked on the cover package outside as follows: **“Passenger Loading Bridges 1, 4 and 5 Replacement for the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, Saipan, CNMI, AIP No. 3-69-0002-100”** and submitted no later than **2:00 p.m., FRIDAY, JUNE 23, 2023**, to the Office of the Executive Director, 2nd floor of the Arrival Terminal at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, at which time and place the sealed proposals will be publicly opened and read.

The Project, in general, consists of, but is not limited to replacement of three existing passenger boarding bridges at Gates 1, 4, and 5 with new apron-drive bridges at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, including all associated work in accordance with the Project Drawings and Specifications.

The Project is being financed by funds from the U.S. Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and the Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA). The Contract provides that the Contractor shall invoice for labor and materials for passenger boarding bridge replacement at Gate 1 separately from the invoice for passenger boarding bridges replacement at Gates 4 and 5 (which may be invoiced together).

The contract award, if it is to be made, will be made within one hundred twenty (120) calendar days from the receipt of bids. CPA reserves the right to hold such bids in effect for one hundred eighty (180) calendar days from the date of bid opening.

A DVD containing the Contract Documents including plans, specifications and the bid schedule, may be obtained at the CPA Accounting Office, 2nd floor of the Departure Terminal at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, upon the payment of **TWO HUNDRED FIFTY U.S. DOLLARS (\$250.00)** for each set of bid documents in electronic format (DVD). The payment is nonrefundable unless bids are cancelled. Payment shall be made in cash, credit card, cashier's check or U.S. postal money order payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority. Bidders should notify Ms. Wendi L. Prater, Executive Assistant/Project Manager at wprater@cnmiports.com immediately if there are issues retrieving the files on the DVD. Bidders should also verify all information using the specification table of contents and the index of drawings.

A pre-bid conference will be held at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, at **10:00 a.m., FRIDAY, JUNE 9, 2023**, at the Saipan Airport Conference Room, 2nd floor of the Departure Terminal, to explain and clarify any questions regarding this project. Attendance is not mandatory. A site visit will follow the pre-bid conference. For site visits after the pre-bid conference, bidders are to coordinate with Ms. Wendi Prater, CPA's Executive Assistant/Project Manager at email address wprater@cnmiports.com or telephone number (670) 237-6500.

Questions should be submitted in writing to the CPA Executive Director's Office, 2nd floor of the Arrival Terminal at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport or emailed to Ms. Wendi L. Prater, Executive Assistant/Project Manager at wprater@cnmiports.com, at least ten (10) days prior to the bid opening date; with the exception of bid submission extension requests which have no deadline. Responses to all questions and requests for information will be provided to all bidders who purchased the bid documents and attended the pre-bid conference.

Bidders shall use the bid schedule form furnished on the DVD. Each bidder should also supply all supplemental information required in the specifications.

The contract period for construction of the project in its entirety shall be **FIVE HUNDRED TWENTY-SIX (526)** calendar days for all three bridges. Liquidated damages in the amount of **ONE THOUSAND (\$1,000.00) U.S. Dollars** shall be assessed the Contractor for each calendar day that the completion of the Project is delayed beyond the contract completion date without approved excuse.

The apparent low bidder will be subject to a thorough and comprehensive review of its qualifications and Bid Documents to ensure that they are “responsive and responsible.” This review will include, but is not necessarily limited to previous project experience, financial capabilities, quality of equipment and personnel, and bonding and insurance. If the apparent low bidder is found not to be “responsive or responsible”, their bid will be rejected and the next lowest bidder will be evaluated for qualifications.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to reject any or all bid proposals submitted for: (a) any of the reasons set forth in this Notice to Bidders; or (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding bid rejection or cancellation; (c) any calculation error made in the bid schedule or mis-enter of the quantity of line item; or (d) sufficient justification exists that awarding the project contract would not be in the best interest of CPA. CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said bids if in its sole opinion to do so would be in CPA's best interest.

Each bid shall be accompanied by either a bid bond by a U.S. Treasury listed or CPA approved surety company, a certified check, or a cashier's check in the amount not less than ten percent (10%) of the bid price. Checks shall be made payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

All mechanics and laborers for this procurement project shall be paid no less than the minimum wage rate established by the CNMI or the U.S. Secretary of Labor, whichever is higher. A copy of the Department of the Federal Labor Wage Rate Determination is included in Section GP 70-28 of the specifications. The bidder shall take into account minimum wage increases that may be imposed in the CNMI over the life of the Contract and include associated costs in the bid proposal. The EEO requirements, labor provisions, and wage rates are included in the specifications.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority, in accordance with the provisions of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (78 Stat. 252, 42 USC §§ 2000d to 2000d-4) and the Regulations, hereby notifies all bidders or offerors that it will affirmatively ensure that any contract entered into pursuant to this advertisement, disadvantaged business enterprises will be afforded full and fair opportunity to submit bids in response to this invitation and will not be discriminated against on the grounds of race, color, or national origin in consideration for an award.

The United States Secretary of Transportation has granted the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands an exemption from the requirements of the Department of Transportation's Minority Business Enterprise (MBE) regulation, which later became the Department of Transportation's Disadvantaged Business Enterprise program, as it relates to FAA grant programs. The Secretary of Transportation has not determined that a portion of those requirements should be reinstated.

By submitting a bid/proposal under this solicitation, the bidder or offeror certifies that neither it nor its principals are presently debarred or suspended by any Federal department or agency from participation in this transaction.

In addition to the above, all bidders shall comply with all other Federal requirements under this procurement, including but not limited to Buy American Preference, Foreign Trade Restriction, Davis Bacon, Veteran's Preference, Affirmative Action and Government wide Debarment and Suspension and Governmentwide Requirements for Drug-free Workplace. Further details on all Federal requirements are provided in the specifications.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY:

/s/ CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Executive Director

Date: May 16, 2023

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

In Re the : FCD CN CIVIL
Matter of the : ACTION NO.
Petition To : 23-0186
Correct: :
 : NOTICE OF
 : HEARING
Erlinda E. Muna :
Petitioner(s) :

Notice is hereby given that the above-entitled matter is set for a hearing on July 5, 2023, at 9:00 a.m. in Courtroom 217A, before Associate Judge Teresa Kim-Tenorio.

Dated this 17th day of May, 2023.

Patrick V. Diaz
Clerk of Court
/s/
By: Deputy Clerk of Court

Joey P. San Nicolas
Attorney-at-Law
San Nicolas Law Office, LLC
2nd Floor, Island Commercial Center, Rm. 203
Chalan Pale Arnold, Guadalupe
P.O. Box 10,001 PMB 602
Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: (670) 234-7659
Fax: (670) 234-9218
Email: jpsn@sannicolaw.net
Attorney for Petitioner Richard E. Taisacan

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN THE MATTER OF: THE ESTATE OF: ABRAHAM EVANGELISTA TAISACAN,	Civil Action No.: 23-0070-CV NOTICE OF HEARING NOTICE TO CREDITORS
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TO: ALL HEIRS, DEVISEES, LEGATEES AND CREDITORS OF: ABRAHAM EVANGELISTA TAISACAN

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the petition of Richard E. Taisacan for the issuance of letters of administration will be heard before the Honorable Joseph N. Camacho, Associate Judge, on the 25th day of May, 2023, at 10:00 a.m., at Room 220A, Superior Court of the Northern Mariana Islands, Susupe Village, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. All persons interested are hereby notified to appear at the hearing and show cause, if any, why the order should not be made.

For further particulars, please refer to the Petition on file herein, or contact counsel for Petitioner, Joey P. San Nicolas, P.O. Box 10,001 PMB 602, Saipan, MP 96950; telephone (670) 234-7659 and email jpsn@sannicolaw.net.

Pursuant to Rule 11, NMI R. Prob. P., notice is hereby given to all creditors of the decedent, ABRAHAM EVANGELISTA TAISACAN, or of his estate, that they must file their claims with the Clerk of the Superior Court, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, within sixty (60) days of the first publication of this Notice, or the claims will be forever barred.

Dated this 1st day of May, 2023.

/s/ Hon. JOSEPH N. CAMACHO
Associate Judge



DOCTOR OF PHARMACY

Congratulations to Minori Yoshida, PharmD, who graduated with a Doctor of Pharmacy degree from Rutgers University, magna cum laude. She is shown here with her parents, Steven and Jane Metaye, during her graduation last May 16, 2023. This Saipan International School alumna had graduated cum laude from the Barnard College at Columbia University with a bachelor's degree in Neuroscience and was then accepted into the Ernest Mario School of Pharmacy at Rutgers University.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Second Wind holds outreach for Da'ok students



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Second Wind founding member Grace Sablan, volunteer staff Lorraine Ada, along with speakers Joey Arriola and John Gonzales, pose for a picture with Da'ok Academy students after a presentation at the Koblerville Elementary School cafeteria on May 16, 2023.

A Saipan-based nonprofit organization that provides services to handle addiction and mental health issues recently held a presentation on drug and alcohol awareness for Da'ok Academy students. Second Wind founding member Grace Sablan, volunteer staff Lorraine Ada, along with speakers Joey Arriola and John Gonzales, held the presentation at the Koblerville Elementary School cafeteria on May 16, 2023. The presentation was made interactive with discussions on identifying the seven commonly used and abused drugs on the islands, especially among teens. Students were asked to identify based on their understanding, knowledge, media knowledge, and experience with peers and family of what they experience and observe at home, villages, or neighborhood about drugs and alcohol use. As part of the presentation, the more than 35 students were divided into seven groups and had icebreaker on identifying certain names associated with drugs known to teens. Students were also given an opportunity to present their findings and shared what was discussed in their particular groups. The students also heard touching and inspiring messages that were personally shared by Ada (as a founding member) and Arriola (as an advocate) in connection with their respective recovery experiences. Second Wind is a nonprofit organization that serves individuals suffering from drug addiction, mental health issues, and other social behavioral matters. **(PR)**

DIVISION OF COASTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

P. O. Box 501304, Saipan MP 96950, Gualo Rai Center, Saipan
TEL. NO. 664-8300 FAX NO. 664-8315
www.dcrm.gov.mp

NOTICE OF APPLICATION

As of May 19, 2023

THE FOLLOWING IS A PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT OF COASTAL PERMIT APPLICATIONS RECEIVED BY THE DCRM OFFICE:

APPLICANT	DATE APPLICATION RECEIVED	APPLICATION PROJECT DESCRIPTION	LOCATION	TYPE	STATUS
1. Sakura CNMI Corporation dba Sakura Marine Sports	12/29/2022 CRM-MD2022-0005	Temporary Beach Concession	Garapan, Saipan	Minor Development	ON HOLD*
2. Northern Marianas College (NMC)	3/10/2023 CRM-MS2023-0005	New Construction of Student Center Building	As Terlaje, Saipan	Major Siting	Approved* 5/17/2023
3. Department of Public Works (DPW)	3/10/2023 CRM-MS2023-0006	Sugar Dock Reconstruction & Dredging Project	Chalan Kanoa, Saipan Saipan	Major Siting	Public Hearing* 5/30/2023
4. Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA)	3/10/2023 SMS-2003-X-007-A1	Demolition & Construction of Saipan International Commuter Terminal	I Fadang, Saipan	Major Siting	Public Hearing 5/30/2023
5. Rota Mayor's Office	4/28/2023 RPIIm-2023-004	Construction of Restroom Facility	CPA Lot # 014-R-60, Rota	Ports & Industrial	Under Review*
6. Saipan Marine Corporation	5/1/2023 SLR-2023-011	Installation of Mooring Buoy B Tanapag Harbor	Tanapag, Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Approved* 5/18/2023
7. Department of Public Lands (DPL)	5/1/2023 APC2023-0026-A1	Secondary Vegetation Clearing Saipan Shorelines	Saipan Shoreline (San Antonio Beach & Susupe Beach Park)	Shoreline	Approved 5/17/2023
8. Hee Jung Lee dba Gaja	5/2/2023 SLR-2023-012-R2 (Formerly APC2022-0004)	Commercial Snorkeling Activities	All Designated Dive Sites, Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Approved 5/4/2023
9. Rota Mayor's Office	5/2/2023 RSm-2023-005	Recreational Enhancements	Teteto Beach Strand, Rota	Shoreline	Under Review*
10. Saipan Diving World, Inc.	5/9/2023 SLR-2023-013-R2 (Formerly APC2023-0021)	Commercial SCUBA Diving Tour/Operations UBA activities	All Designated Dive Sites, Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Under Review
11. Diving Shop Light House, Inc.	5/9/2023 SLR-2023-014	Commercial SCUBA Diving Operation - UBA Activities	All Designated Dive Sites, Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Under Review
12. Yumiko N. Brundidge dba Naka's Diving Services	5/10/2023 SLR-2023-015	Commercial SCUBA Diving Operation - UBA Activities	All Designated Dive Sites, Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Under Review
13. Axe Murderer Tours, LLC.	5/10/2023 SLR-2023-039-R2	Commercial SCUBA Diving Operation - UBA Activities	All Designated Dive Sites, Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Under Review
14. Hiroshi Yamamoto	5/15/2023 RLRm-2023-006	Commercial SCUBA Diving Operations	All Designated Dive Sites, Rota	Lagoon & Reef	Under Review*

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Power service interruption on Capital Hill, As Teo, Garapan

There will be a scheduled power service interruption for the area(s) listed below:

TUESDAY, MAY 23, 2023, on Capital Hill and As Teo, from 9am to 1pm

■ Area(s) Affected: Partial areas of Capital Hill and As Teo on Papago Dr.

■ Purpose: For the line crew to replace a defective primary pole.

■ Water Well(s) Affected: None

■ Wastewater Facility Affected: None

■ Traffic Light(s): None

WEDNESDAY, MAY 24, 2023, for Garapan, from 9am to 1pm

■ Area(s) Affected: Partial area of Garapan on Kadena Di Amor St. and Chichirica Ave.

■ Purpose: For the line crew to replace a defective primary pole.

Momentary power interruption: 9am to 10am and 12:30pm to 1pm

■ Purpose: For the line crew to create a double dead-end to minimize affected areas on future outages and to connect jumper to the double dead-end to re-energize

■ Area(s) Affected: Partial area of Garapan on Beach Road, Kadena Di Amor St. and Chichirica Ave.

■ Water Well(s) Affected: None

■ Wastewater Facility Affected: None

■ Traffic Light(s): None
For the safety of our crew, motorists are advised to use caution while driving in the area.

For more information, contact the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. hotline at (670) 236-4333 or monitor our Facebook page for the latest updates (<https://www.facebook.com/CommonwealthUtilitiesCorporation/>). **(PR)**

Attention, writers: May write-in on Saturday

Come to the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library on Saturday, May 20, 2023 from 10am to noon for our monthly write-in. We will be checking some writing contests and sharing our efforts with each other.

This is an opportunity to write with others, side-by-side, in parallel inspiration and encouragement. Write your journal. Write your family history. Write your stories novels, poems, or letters. There is no better way to leave a legacy of your experiences and life stories than through writing them down for future generations. Bring your notebooks and pens, or laptop, or other writing device and write with us. Bring your thermos of coffee or bottle of water. And see how much you can get written (or revised) in two hours! **(PR)**

NMIAC §15-10-210 of the CRM Rules and Regulations requires all permit applications to be published in a newspaper for general circulation within the CNMI within 15 days of receipt of application. The list reflects recently received permit applications and those with a recent change in status. New applications are marked with an asterisk (*).

The Public is invited to submit written comments regarding any of the above projects for which a permit decision has not been issued. All permit comments should identify the project by application number. Your comments should be mailed or hand-delivered to the DCRM Office. All persons who desire a public hearing regarding any project may do so by submitting a written request for a public hearing to the DCRM Office within fourteen (14) days for minor permits (APCs) and proposed amended major sitings. Public Hearings are required for all new major siting projects. All public hearing notices are published in a local newspaper of general circulation. Residents of Rota and Tinian may submit comments and hearing requests to their local DCRM Coordinator. Persons wishing to retain the right to appeal a DCRM Permit decision must file a notice of appeal with the DCRM office within thirty (30) days of the issuance of the DCRM permit decision as provided in Part 200 § 15-10-235 of the DCRM Regulations.

Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

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Pacific Islands News Association

Fighting back against authoritarianism

By VINAY OREKONDY
The Fulcrum*Vinay Orekondy is an attorney originally from Australia and is the Coalitions Director at Rank the Vote.*

Many of us in the democracy reform movement see a need to fight authoritarianism. While this need is obvious, such a framing puts us at risk of merely fighting the symptoms and not curing the disease.

To find the solution to authoritarianism, we must understand its causes.

First, American democracy is not representative. It should surprise none of us that alternatives to democracy are being considered by a public starved of meaningful representation. The solution to this is clearly democracy reform, yet achieving this on a large scale requires much deeper levels of organizing than the pro-democracy movement has (yet) been able to muster.

Second, we need to recognize that this isn't a uniquely American problem. Authoritarianism is experiencing a surge of popularity across the world.

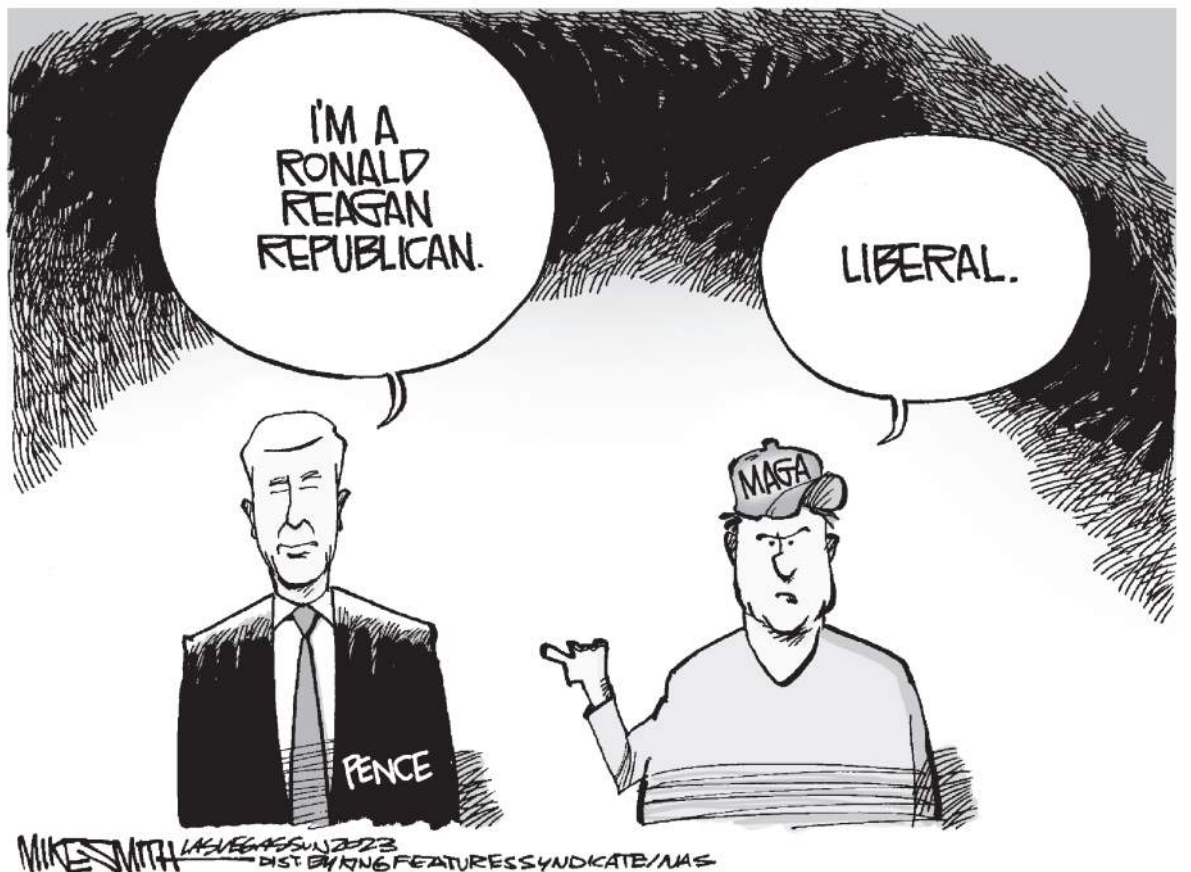
We are now a collection of 8 billion individuals, taught that the only path to self-worth, fulfillment, security, and happiness comes through our ability to clamber over one another up the economic ladder, and throw down anyone who gets in our way.

It should be no surprise that the planet has revolted against this philosophy of extreme individualism by asserting the most visceral forms of collective identity. Racism, sexism, fanaticism and fascism are being espoused more openly in public and exhibiting high levels of political organization. The authoritarian impulse is, at its heart, an expression of desire for community, and the adoption of whatever communities are immediately available.

To cure authoritarianism, we must meet the need for community. This is done most easily at the local level, as that is where individuals most often connect to each other and find shared values. It is on top of such communities that we will find the organizing power to win democracy reform.

As advocacy organizations, we need to begin facilitating connections between our people on a local level. While people form all sorts of groups on the local level, from sporting groups to your local Dungeons and Dragons group, the organizations with most potential for democracy defense are constituency groups (based on shared ethnicity, religion, political values, etc.) and advocacy organizations (single or multi-issue groups).

The process of forging such local groups into a singular community would best be achieved by bridging organizations, which have a process for creating common ground amongst disparate and often conflicting groups. While bridging organizations have often focused on bringing together individuals with conflicting opinions, they would be well served to partner with civic organizations in their area as well and attempt to forge relationships between their members.



Do we really want discussion in our schools? Book censorship indicates otherwise

Do you believe in discussion in our schools? Or do you want the schools to discuss just what you believe? That's the big question that all Americans need to ask themselves right now. And everything—really, everything—hinges on the answer.

Witness two recent news stories, both involving book censorship. In Florida, state officials worked with the publisher of a middle school social studies textbook to remove a passage about Black Lives Matter. A second publisher asked the author of a children's book on the Japanese American internment to revise her author's note about racism.

We don't know why Florida objected to the BLM passage, which noted that "many Americans sympathized with the Black Lives Matter movement" while other people criticized looting and violence and denounced BLM as anti-police. But here's what we do know: The book provided multiple perspectives on BLM, which is exactly what our students need in order to make sense of it themselves.

Florida officials already rejected a new Advanced Placement African American Studies course because it addressed Black Lives Matter, as well as reparations and prison abolition. To Gov. Ron DeSantis and his supporters, it seems, any mention of BLM is one too many. They don't want kids to get the "wrong" idea about it—which is the fear of the censor in all times and places.

That also seemed to be the fear of Scholastic, the publishing giant that asked Maggie Tokuda-Hall to revise the author's note in her children's book "Love in the Library." The story describes how her grandparents met in an internment camp for Japanese Americans during World War II. Her note connects that story to present-day racism, including the central issue that motivated the Black Lives Matter movement: police violence against African Americans.

"As much as I would hope this would be a story of a distant past, it is not," the note begins. "It's very much a story of America here and now. The racism that put my grandparents into Minidoka (the camp where they were interned) is the same hate that keeps children in cages on our border. It's the myth of white supremacy that brought slavery to our past and allows the police to murder Black people in our present."

"It's the same fear that brings Muslim bans," Tokuda-Hall's note continues. "It's the same contempt that creates voter suppression, medical apartheid, and food deserts. The same cruelty that carved reservations out of stolen, sovereign land, that paved the Trail of Tears. Hate is not a virus. It is an American tradition."

Denouncing Scholastic's "horrific demand for censorship," Tokuda-Hall refused to allow the book to be published without her note. Scholastic quickly relented, apologizing to Tokuda-Hall and pledging to release the book in its original

By JONATHAN ZIMMERMAN
Chicago Tribune*Jonathan Zimmerman teaches education and history at the University of Pennsylvania. He is the author of Whose America? Culture Wars in the Public Schools, which was recently released in a 20th-anniversary edition.*

form. And that's exactly what it should do.

But what should teachers do when they share the book with their students? If you listen to Tokuda-Hall and her allies, schools should present her statement as a simple matter of fact: The same racism that caused the Japanese American internment persists in other forms today.

"By refusing to let this story be situated in the context of government oppression and enslavement of other minority groups, past and present, it makes it safe for them to say, 'historically, mistakes were made, but look at how successful Japanese American communities are now,'" literary agent DongWong Song tweeted. "This is white supremacy. This is how it operates."

That's a defensible view, but it's also a debatable one. And Tokuda-Hall and her supporters don't seem to want that debate, any more than Florida officials want schools to discuss Black Lives Matter.

If they did, they'd pair Tokuda-Hall's book with the first popular children's novel on the subject, "The Moved-Outers." Published in February 1945, when the camps were still in operation, the book tells the story of an 18-year-old Japanese American girl who is interned, encounters white mob violence upon her release, but loves America nevertheless.

"We're really the newest pioneers," she declares. "We, the evacuees, the moved-outers. We're American patriots, loving our country with our hearts broken."

"The Moved-Outers" was the runner-up for the Newbery Medal—the highest award for children's literature—in 1946, a very different time in American history. If teachers coupled it with Tokuda-Hall's book, students would get two contrasting perspectives on the internment. Does it demonstrate the strength of a freedom-loving nation that can overcome its mistakes? Or does it reveal the essential racism that still lies in its heart?

That's the kind of discussion we need, so our kids can decide who we are. And if you don't want it, stop complaining about censorship in our schools. You just want your own views to be taught there.

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Is AI the answer to moms' mental overload?

Earlier this year, I made a dumb financial decision. I bought a car that was beyond our budget. We had just been through an eight-week stretch of demanding work schedules, kitchen renovations and checking-account fraud. Our daughter's day-care center closed three times, for a COVID outbreak, a bout of norovirus and a water leak. Not exactly tragedies, but when our old car died, my fried brain had no bandwidth for comparison shopping. I walked into a dealership and said I'd look at whatever they had on the lot. I left with a car—and a car loan.

How did I become the kind of person who buys a car on impulse? Cognitive overload. It can have real financial costs. In my case, they were steep—and came with 6.9% interest.

But what if I'd had an AI assistant to keep track of the chaos—or offloaded the car research to ChatGPT? Maybe my brain would have been clearer and capable of better decisions. Maybe my bank account would look a little healthier now.

Entrepreneur Avni Patel Thompson thinks families like mine could use some automated support. She's working on a subscription service called Milo that uses a mix of GPT-4 and human intervention to keep track of family schedules, grocery lists and other mundanities. One parent might text a screenshot of a school email to Milo, which would realize that buried in the fifth paragraph is a reminder that Pajama Day is May 18. Milo could then send each parent reminders to make sure the kids go off to school in their sleepwear.

In the future, I could imagine Milo or another AI-powered productivity app not only managing information but working with other AIs to get stuff done. Today, Milo can keep track of your children's coming birthday parties. Tomorrow, maybe it will work with Amazon.com to order the gifts, too.

Systems like this could be especially helpful to mothers. A survey conducted this year by Motherly suggests millennial moms are the most burned out, with more than half saying we "frequently" or "always" feel overwhelmed. While stay-at-home moms report higher rates of burnout

than working ones, levels for both groups are high—47% of full-time working moms feel burned out compared with 56% of those who stay home.

To cope with these feelings, millennial and Gen Z moms ask their partners to do more. And working moms are especially willing to use their extra earning power to outsource the hands-on tasks completely.

But until now, it has been difficult to outsource the cognitive labor.

Researchers say that, when asked, most husbands are willing to take on tasks like laundry, cooking and cleaning. But the mental load—noticing what needs doing, coming up with a plan to do it, reminding everyone to follow through—is disproportionately carried by women.

Research by Allison Daminger, an assistant professor of sociology at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, has found through extensive interviews with couples that men and women tend to share responsibility for research and decision-making, while women do more noticing (this will need doing soon) and monitoring (is anyone actually doing this?). And women tend to have more household responsibilities overall. As a result, women do more cognitive labor.

Some of it can be fun, of course. There can be creativity involved in planning meals, satisfaction in organizing the family vacation, joy in writing holiday cards. But a lot of it is mind-numbing. It's your turn to do day-care pickup. Did you remember to put the trash out? We're almost out of coffee.

While AI is busy stealing jobs, could it please take this one?

It may not be that easy. Glitches can happen, familiar to anyone who has used an online calendar to manage the family schedule. Husbands might not see the need for a new tool. As with many technologies, early adopters could be limited to the most educated, affluent households. I can imagine a future in which rich women delegate their cognitive labor to a bot that in turn sends instructions to the working-class women cleaning their houses and delivering their groceries, limiting

By SARAH GREEN CARMICHAEL
Bloomberg Opinion



Sarah Green Carmichael is a Bloomberg Opinion editor. Previously, she was managing editor of ideas and commentary at Barron's and an executive editor at Harvard Business Review, where she hosted HBR IdeaCast.

human-to-human contact. It's not a happy prospect.

And there's a broader caveat. Daminger points out that although many labor-saving devices have entered US households over the past 100 years, from vacuums to washing machines to lawn mowers, people still spend a lot of time on household labor—the hours just migrate to other tasks. For example, working women today spend more time with their children than stay-at-home moms did 50 years ago. AI assistants could allow parenting to further intensify.

Nonetheless, the idea of offloading some cognitive labor is appealing—especially because delegating the nagging to an app might reduce marital tension. Using technology to automate some household tasks could reduce the time spent negotiating over who does what—fraught conversations that can feel as tense as UN climate talks.

It might even help women with their careers if it frees up time for paid work and mental space for new ideas. Jane Austen spoke for many when she wrote to her sister, "Composition seems to me impossible with a head full of joints of mutton and doses of rhubarb." Perhaps that's why, when I've talked about the idea of automating some of the mental load, women's eyes light up.

There are risks involved in sharing ever-more personal information with tech services, and it's easy for a helpful tool to become one more task. But the invisible job of remembering, reminding and researching also exacts a toll. As my shiny new car can attest. More From Bloomberg Opinion:

America's health care system benefits the insurance industry, not patients or doctors

Could this be the year when America starts to shift away from the employer-sponsored health insurance model?

To be sure, health care is an issue that concerns most people. Whether it is accessing care or paying for health care services, few people are free of the anxiety that comes when they or a loved one must undergo treatment for an acute life-threatening or debilitating chronic condition.

In spite of the \$4 trillion spent in 2021 on health care in the United States, the highest per capita spending in the world, life expectancy in our nation continues to languish in comparison to other industrialized countries.

So what are the issues that demand discussion and resolution?

For many people, health insurance is tied to their employment. When they take on new employment, their health insurance coverage moves as well. This creates a patchwork of coverage that is susceptible to cracks during any transition. If there is a gap in employment, COBRA is available to provide coverage, at the person's own expense.

The Affordable Care Act also ensures that everyone can gain access to health insurance, with no limitations for pre-existing conditions. The growth of the gig economy further highlights why health insurance must not depend on traditional employment. Untethering health care from employment is not only a good idea but also essential to expanding the footprint of people with health care security.

One solution is separating the delivery of health care service from the payment of these services. Such a separation is critical to resolving a lack of access to health care services and exposing such issues in our nation's health care system.

For most people, health care services are covered by health insurance. Health insurance companies are highly profitable. In 2020, they generated \$31 billion in profit, an

increase of more than 40% from 2019. In 2021, they earned a paltry \$19 billion in profit. The upward trend returned in 2022, with the six most profitable health insurance companies earning more than \$41 billion in profit.

The question is: Should a commodity that provides a public good like health care services be positioned to generate profits from such a public need?

One alternative is a single-payer system, much like Medicaid, Medicare and Veterans Affairs. This topic is a lightning rod for controversy. Some argue that the government is ill-equipped to provide health care services for the nation. Yet, a single-payer system does not mean that the government will provide services. It will only be the funnel through which health care services are paid. A single-payer system exists in 17 countries, providing models for how it can be achieved in the United States.

A second alternative is to establish and grow a network of not-for-profit health insurance companies. If health care providers work toward accepting coverage from only these entities, for-profit companies will eventually be phased out. The benefit of not-for-profit health insurance is that any excess income is used for the good of its constituents, not shareholders.

Such a solution represents a long-term vision, given that such a transition would be met with resistance by the for-profit health insurance industry, which lobbies and makes campaign contributions to maintain the status quo. Nonetheless, this direction demands attention and consideration given the current state of affairs.

The disconnect among health insurance, health care providers and patients has created an equilibrium that serves the best interests of health insurance companies, while placing patients and health care providers at the mercy of these

By SHELDON JACOBSON
Chicago Tribune



Sheldon Jacobson is a professor in computer science at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. A data scientist, he applies his expertise in data-driven, risk-based decision-making to evaluate and inform public policy.

companies. As middlemen, health insurance companies effectively control the flow of health care services to patients via prior authorizations. This means that health care providers are de facto working for health insurance companies, since they pay for the services provided.

There is some glimmer of hope for health care providers and patients. UnitedHealthcare's recent change in its prior authorization process is an implicit acknowledgment of this issue and a move in the right direction.

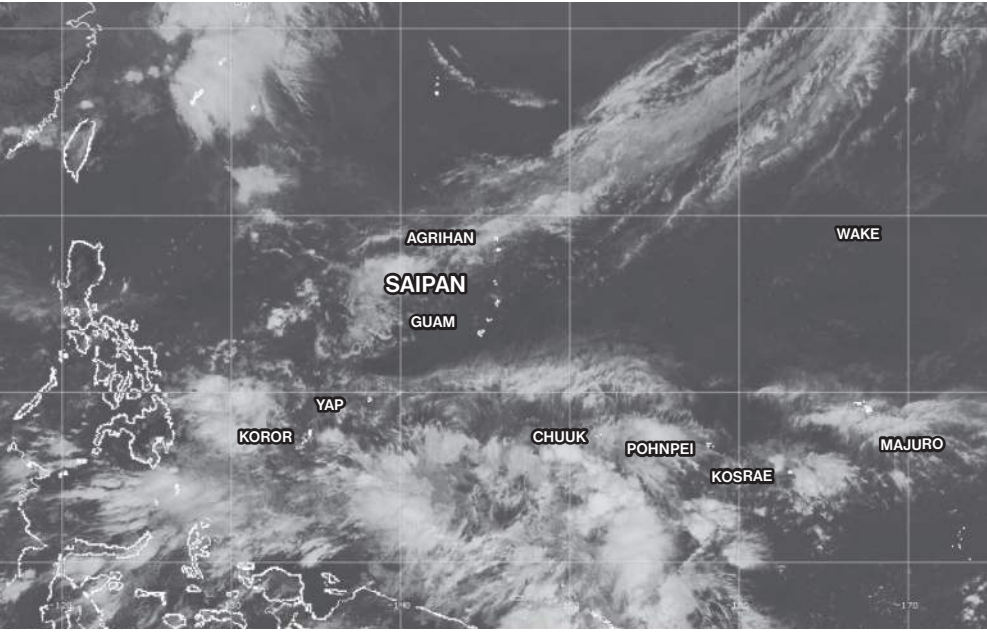
At the center of health care must be the patient. For health care to function in the best interest of patients, physicians and other health care professionals must be steering the ship. In the current environment, health insurance companies are in charge. This hurts patients, as they may not get the care they need and deserve. It hurts physicians and other health care professionals, as they are forced to spend time and resources fighting for their patients, and even to get paid for their services.

Plain and simple, the current system is functioning in the best interests of the health insurance industry.

When discussing health care in the U.S., the services provided need to be separated from the finances to pay for them. The financial component is overwhelming the service component. Until this is addressed, the current situation will continue—to the detriment of physicians, health care professionals and, most critically, patients, which we will all be at some point.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN									
TODAY		SATURDAY		SUNDAY		MONDAY		TUESDAY	
Isolated showers. Partly sunny		Isolated showers. Mostly sunny,		Isolated showers before 7am. Mostly sunny,		Partly sunny		A chance of showers. Partly sunny	
87°	78°	87°	78°	87°	78°	87°	79°	87°	79°
YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE									



PICTURE TIME: 8:05 AM, THURSDAY, MAY 18, 2023
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Satellite and radar imagery showed a few showers over the Marianas this morning. East winds prevail over the islands. A dry season pattern will keep showers isolated through the weekend.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA			▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Partly Cloudy	88° / 80°	
Palau	Thunderstorms	85° / 76°	
Yap	Partly Cloudy	87° / 80°	
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	85° / 80°	
Pohnpei	Scattered Thunderstorms	88° / 77°	
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	85° / 80°	
Majuro	Thunderstorms	85° / 80°	

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	5:47 AM	6:39 PM
Saturday	5:47 AM	6:39 PM
Sunday	5:47 AM	6:40 PM
Monday	5:46 AM	6:40 PM
Tuesday	5:46 AM	6:40 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	5:09 AM	6:18 PM	-
Saturday	5:54 AM	7:15 PM	-
Sunday	6:42 AM	8:12 PM	-
Monday	7:34 AM	9:08 PM	-
Tuesday	8:27 AM	10:00 PM	-

AROUND THE GLOBE			▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Showers	67° / 58°	
Beijing	Mostly Sunny	85° / 59°	
Hong Kong	Thunderstorms	84° / 78°	
Honolulu	Rain	79° / 72°	
London	Mostly Cloudy	63° / 46°	
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	74° / 59°	
Manila	Scattered Thunderstorms	93° / 82°	
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	55° / 44°	
Miami	Thunderstorms	86° / 73°	
New York	Sunny	66° / 46°	
Osaka	Rain	69° / 65°	
Paris	Mostly Sunny	67° / 52°	
Busan	Light Rain	68° / 59°	
Rome	Thunderstorms	76° / 60°	
Salem	Thunderstorms	75° / 61°	
San Francisco	Mostly Sunny	63° / 53°	
Seoul	Mostly Sunny	82° / 60°	
Tokyo	Rain	75° / 64°	
Washington, DC	Sunny	71° / 51°	

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY			FEET
1:14 AM	Low Tide	1.14	
6:32 AM	High Tide	2.09	
1:48 PM	Low Tide	-0.11	
8:40 PM	High Tide	1.99	

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF APRIL 30, 2023							
DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA117	9:50AM	10:35AM	Daily	UA174	8:00AM	8:45AM	Daily
SAIPAN- NARITA (NRT)				NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
UA824	7:25AM	9:55AM	1, 3, 5	UA825	9:25PM	1:50AM+1	2, 4, 7
GUAM-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-GUAM			
PR 111	5:55AM	7:55AM	Daily	UA184	10:25PM	4:15AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA193	6:55PM	10:55PM	2, 5 via Palau	UA189	10:25PM	6:10AM+1	2, 5 via Palau
UA183	7:15PM	9:10PM	Daily	PR110	10:30PM	4:25AM+1	Daily
				UA192	11:50PM	5:35AM+1	2, 5
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
OZ626/703	4:20AM	10:35PM	1, 4, 5, 7 via ICN	UA184/174	10:25PM	8:45AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via Guam
UA117/183	9:50AM	9:10PM	Daily via Guam	UA192/174	10:25PM	8:45AM+1	2, 5 via Palau, Guam
UA117/193	9:50AM	10:55PM	2, 5 via Guam, Palau	UA184/174	11:50PM	8:45AM+1	2, 5 via Guam
SAIPAN-INCHEON (ICN)				INCHEON (ICN)-SAIPAN			
TW308	3:15AM	7:00AM	Daily	7C3406	9:30AM	3:10PM	Daily
OZ626	4:20AM	7:55AM	1, 4, 5, 7	TW307	8:30PM	2:15AM+1	Daily
7C3403	4:45AM	8:35AM	Daily	OZ625	9:25PM	2:55AM+1	3, 4, 6, 7
7C3405	4:10PM	7:45PM	Daily	7C3405	10:10PM	3:40AM+1	Daily

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines; PR, Philippine Airlines; TW, T'Way Air; OZ, Asiana Airlines; 7C, Jeju Air; BX, Air Busan • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.							
FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JUNE 1, 2022							
SAIPAN TO ROTA				ROTA TO SAIPAN			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY	FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1301	8:30	9:00	Daily	3101	9:30	10:00	Daily
1302	11:00	11:30	Mon/Wed/Fri	3102	13:00	13:30	Tues/Thurs/ Sat/Sun
1302	12:00	12:30	Tues/Thurs/ Sat/Sun	3102	14:00	14:30	Mon/Wed/Fri
1303	15:30	16:00	Daily	3103	16:30	17:00	Daily
ROTA TO GUAM				GUAM TO ROTA			
LIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY	FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3401	12:00	12:30	Mon/Wed/Fri	4301	13:00	13:30	Mon/Wed/Fri
SAIPAN TO TINIAN				TINIAN TO SAIPAN			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY	FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1202	8:00	8:15	Daily	2102	8:30	8:45	Daily
1203	9:00	9:15	Daily	2103	9:30	9:45	Daily
1204	10:00	10:15	Daily	2104	10:30	10:45	Daily
1208	14:00	14:15	Daily	2108	14:30	14:45	Daily
1209	15:00	15:15	Daily	2109	15:30	15:45	Daily
1210	16:00	16:15	Daily	2110	16:30	16:45	Daily
1211	17:00	17:15	Daily	2111	17:30	17:45	Daily

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Business

Kikass Snack Bar satisfies your 'mixed' cravings

By MARK RABAGO

mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Kikass Snack Bar is the island's self-proclaimed headquarters of inexpensive mixed snacks and light meals since opening at Kada Dia in Chalan Kanoa in 2021.

"We call it 'mix a lot' because we sell a mixture of Chamorro, Hawaiian, Japanese, and Mexican foods from our poke bowls, sushis, manha titiyas, donni, bishus, quesadillas, mezzing corn, chesa platters, etc.," owner Myrna M. Quitugua told *Saipan Tribune*.

Since opening nearly two years ago, Kikass Snack Bar has become quite known for their poke bowls, bento box,



Kikass Snack Bar's poke bento box. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

sushis, mezzing corn, pika corn, and pickles.

"We have all the food to satisfy all the cravings from sweet, sour, salty, cheesy, and of course spicy," she said.

And rightfully so since Quitugua isn't called the "Queen of Donni" for nothing.

"I've been eating donni all my life and a lot of people know me as the 'Donni Queen.' I've been selling hot pepper and bishu in Washington state for over five years now. I have an online store called 'Kikass Donni & Things' so I decided to just stick with the name and besides, the majority of the food I sell is spicy."

The name of Quitugua's on-

line business and the succeeding food stall actually comes from her nickname.

"Kikass came from my name 'Frances' instead of 'kika' I just went with the double 's,'" she explained.

As for daring to be entrepreneurs during the time of COVID-19, Quitugua simply said opportunity always favors the bold.

"Me and my husband, Richard, moved back to Saipan from Washington State in July 2021 after being away from the islands for over 15 years. We just decided it's time to come back home. We opened in September 2021 during the



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Kikass Snack Bar owner Myrna M. Quitugua said her stall sells a mixture of Chamorro, Hawaiian, Japanese, and Mexican foods.

pandemic because there were some open stalls at Kada Dia Market in CK so we decided to take whatever was available and go from there. I said to myself, 'This is not the per-

fect timing but let's use our time wisely.'"

Like other stalls at Kada Dia, Kikass Snack Bar has dine-in accommodations for customers, but Quitugua said most of their

business is take-away.

"Majority of what we do are take-out and grab-and-go and we also offer free delivery especially to schools to accommodate teachers and staff, but we have chairs and tables outside so people can enjoy their meals."

Not familiar with their food? Quitugua has you covered as Kikass Snack Bar offers samples of everything they sell.

"Just come on down to Kada Dia and support local and small businesses," she said.

Kikass Snack Bar is located at the Kada Dia Everyday Market by the Chalan Kanoa post office. They are open from 11am to 4pm, Monday-Saturday. For more information or for advance orders, call 670-484-5452 (KIKKA). They are also on social media (Instagram and Facebook).



Kikass Snack Bar's shoyu poke bowl. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

GRMC recaps celebrations for National Hospital Week and Nurses Week

DEDEDO, Guam—Guam Regional Medical City held its celebration of National Hospital Week and National Nurses Week throughout the week of May 6-13, 2023.

GRMC president and CEO Alan Funtanilla, said, "This week of recognition is pivotal in commemorating our employee partners, who, day after day, tirelessly dedicate their service to providing safe and quality patient care. They are the heart of National Hospital and Nurses Week."

On Monday, May 8, the GRMC executive team, managers, and staff attended the Annual Hospital Week Opening Ceremonies held at the Guam Memorial Hospital front lawn that kicked off the week's festivities. During her address, Guam Gov. Lou Leon Guerrero said, "As we celebrate this very important week and day, our administration is proud to recognize all the men and women who work hard every day to provide high-quality, compassionate care to our island's patients and their families."

Acknowledging, not only hospital clinical staff, but their administrative and support staff for their collaborative efforts, she continued, "Because of [the hospitals'] strong workforce, our hospitals have been the source of hope and help through our darkest journeys, not only as the people but as an island—open through long difficult days and nights; staff with committed teams doing their jobs. It is not exaggerating when we describe hospitals as indispensable community assets, providing critical support, as we build a new era of



JOEY DELA CRUZ

Guam Regional Medical City staff are photographed in the hospital's main lobby in celebration of National Hospital Week and National Nurses Week on Friday, May 12, 2023.

Twitter purging inactive accounts including people who have died

WASHINGTON (AP)—Emily Reed lost her younger sister Jessica more than 10 years ago. For much of the last decade, she's visited Jessica's Twitter page to help "keep her memory alive."

Twitter became one of the places where Emily processed her grief and reconnected with a sister she describes as almost like a twin. But Jessica's account is now gone.

Last week, owner Elon Musk announced Twitter would be purging accounts that have had no activity for several years. That decision has been met by an outcry from those who have lost, or who fear losing the thoughts and words of deceased loved ones linked to now-inactive accounts.

Reed immediately returned to Jessica's page as she had done a day or two earlier after learning of the purge. In place of Jessica's page was an "account suspended" message that suggested it may be in viola-

tion Twitter rules.

Reed's tweet recounting her shock over the loss of the account has received tens of thousands of responses. Others shared similar experiences of pain upon learning that the account of a deceased loved one had vanished.

"Having these digital footprints... is super important to me," Reed, 43, told *The Associated Press*.

The advent of social media has come with new way in which people mourn, returning to the place where they connected with friends and family in the past. In addition to memories and physical traces left behind, snippets of lives are now being captured in the digital space.

It is something that social media platforms have wrestled with for recent years.

Twitter backed off an attempt to purge inactive accounts in 2019, years before Musk arrived, due to a similar backlash.

prosperity for Guam."

Later that day, GRMC joined GMH at the Chief Quipuha Loop in Hagåtña for the Annual Hospital Week wave at 4:30pm.

GRMC staff participated in the annual Hospital Week Friendship Games, which consisted of billiards, volleyball, and basketball.

The billiards tournament was scheduled for 6:30pm on Friday, May 12, at Buddy's Billiards & Brew in Tamuning. Teams from Guam Memorial Hospital Authority (GMHA) and U.S. Naval Hospital Guam (USNHG) attended. Team GMHA took first place; USNHG teams took second and third place.

The volleyball tourna-

ment took place the following day—9:30 am on Saturday, May 13, at the Talofofo Gym. Teams from GMHA and GRMC attended. Team GRMC led in all three sets, 25-11, 25-17, 25-16, declaring GRMC the winner of the volleyball tournament.

The battle between Team GMHA and Team GRMC continued later that day in a best-of-three basketball tournament that took place at 1pm. Team GRMC took home the victory via a two-game sweep—44-38 in Game 1 and 57-52 in Game 2.

In celebration of Nurses Week, each day was themed to provide a treat to all nursing staff, such as croffles (croissant-waffles), s'mores, pop-

corn, a (non-alcoholic) drink trolley, pens, and notes of appreciation. The nursing staff were also given Nurses Week t-shirts to wear during the celebration. The week concluded with the 2023 DAISY (Diseases Attacking the Immune System) Award, held at the Dusit Thani Guam Resort, to announce this year's Honoree—a GRMC nurse who has made a uniquely significant impact on the lives of patients and their families.

To commemorate the celebrations, GRMC has shared photos of the week on social media. Banners were displayed along the rails in front of the hospital, which can be seen upon entering GRMC's premises. (PR)

Nation

Biden declares 'America will not default'

WASHINGTON (AP)—An optimistic President Joe Biden declared Wednesday he is confident the U.S. will avoid an unprecedented and potentially catastrophic debt default, saying talks with congressional Republicans have been productive. He left for a G-7 summit in Japan but planned to return by the weekend in hopes of approving a solid agreement.

Biden's upbeat remarks came as a select group of negotiators began meeting to try and hammer out the final contours of a

budget spending deal to unlock a path for raising the debt limit as soon June 1. That is when the Treasury Department says the U.S. could begin defaulting on its obligations and trigger financial chaos.

"I'm confident that we'll get the agreement on the budget and America will not default," Biden said from the Roosevelt Room of the White House. Later Wednesday evening, negotiations resumed behind closed doors at the Capitol.

Democrat Biden and Republican House Speaker Kevin

McCarthy have traded blame for a debt-ceiling impasse for weeks. But Biden said of the latest White House session with congressional leaders that "everyone came to the meeting, I think, in good faith."

McCarthy was upbeat, too, though contending Biden had given ground. The president said the budget talks were still separate from the debt limit issue, but the speaker said Biden had "finally backed off" his refusal to negotiate.

"Keep working—we'll work again tonight," Mc-

Carthy told reporters later. "We're going to work until we can get it done."

Biden said that every leader at Tuesday's Oval Office meeting — Vice President Kamala Harris, McCarthy, House Minority Leader Hakeem Jeffries, D-N.Y., Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., and Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky. — agreed the U.S. must not default on its obligations.

"It would be catastrophic for the American economy and the American people if we didn't

pay our bills," Biden said. "I'm confident everyone in the room agreed ... that we're going to come together because there's no alternative. We have to do the right thing for the country. We have to move on."

He said he would be in "constant contact" with White House officials while at the summit in Hiroshima. He is canceling stops in Australia and Papua New Guinea that were to follow so he can return to Washington on Sunday.

Biden and McCarthy tasked a handful of representatives to work swiftly to try and close out a final deal. They include Steve Ricchetti, counselor to the president; legislative affairs director Louisa Terrell

and Office of Management and Budget Director Shalanda Young for the administration, and Rep. Garret Graves, R-La., a close McCarthy ally, for the Republicans.

McCarthy, who has said he would personally be involved, said he planned to stop by the talks later Wednesday. He said he would be in Washington for the weekend while negotiations are underway.

Agreement by the negotiators would still leave any deal needing approval by Democratic Senate and Republican House.

Democrats are upset about the possibility of new work requirements for some recipients of government aid. And Republicans want much tougher budget restraints than the Democrats support.



AP

President Joe Biden speaks about the debt limit talks in the Roosevelt Room of the White House, Wednesday, May 17, 2023, in Washington.

DeSantis criticizes Trump for implying Florida abortion ban is 'too harsh'

By MEG KINNARD
ASSOCIATED PRESS

Gov. Ron DeSantis criticized Donald Trump for implying that Florida's new six-week abortion ban is "too harsh," going after the former president as DeSantis prepares to challenge him for the 2024 Republican nomination.

DeSantis was responding to a question Tuesday about Trump's comments in The Messenger about the six-week ban that DeSantis recently signed into law. "Many people within the pro-life movement feel that that was too harsh," Trump told the online outlet in an article published Monday.

The governor contended the law has widespread support among opponents of abortion and he noted that Trump did not say what limits he would back.

"Protecting an unborn child

when there's a detectable heartbeat is something that almost 99% of pro-lifers support," DeSantis said at a news conference after he signed a measure to combat human trafficking.

"As a Florida resident, you know, he didn't give an answer about, 'Would you have signed the heartbeat bill that Florida did, that had all the exceptions that people talk about?'" DeSantis added.

The rivalry between Trump and DeSantis is heating up as DeSantis nears a decision on a presidential campaign. DeSantis allies believe he will launch his candidacy as soon as this week, although an announcement could come closer to the end of the month.

Abortion has been an early flashpoint in the still-forming Republican primary field in the first White House election since the Supreme Court overturned Roe v. Wade. The bick-

ering showcases the GOP's internal debate over hard-line abortion restrictions, which may be popular in a primary but could create problems in a general election for the party's eventual nominee.

Asked whether he felt Trump had taken a firm enough stance on abortion, former Vice President Mike Pence — a staunch opponent of abortion who is soon expected to enter the race against his former boss — drew a line of distinction with Trump, saying he supported Florida's bill and would sign such a measure as president.

"For my part, I disagree with President Trump about the heartbeat bill," Pence told reporters Tuesday night after an event in Concord, New Hampshire. "I truly do believe that we ought to advance the cause of life at the state level, but I also want to say, I also believe there is a role at the

federal level to advance the sanctity of life."

The bill signed into law last month by DeSantis would ban abortions after six weeks of pregnancy. It will take effect only if the state's current 15-week ban is upheld in a legal challenge before the state Supreme Court, which is controlled by conservatives.

Calling into a Newsmax program Tuesday night, Trump repeated earlier comments he made on CNN that he had given abortion opponents "the power of negotiation." Twice deflecting questions about whether he would support a national abortion ban at a specific point, Trump said "many pro-life people" are "talking about more weeks than Ron is talking about."

"But I'm going to decide, and I'm going to be in there pushing, and I'm the one that got rid of Roe v. Wade," he said.

ACROSS THE NATION

8-year-old girl dies in Border Patrol custody

HARLINGEN, Texas (AP)—An 8-year-old girl died Wednesday in Border Patrol custody, authorities said, a rare occurrence that comes as the agency struggles with overcrowding. The child and her family were being held at a station in Harlingen, Texas, in Rio Grande Valley, one of the busiest corridors for illegal crossings, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, the Border Patrol's parent agency, said in a statement. The girl experienced "a medical emergency" and was taken to a nearby hospital, where she died, according to the statement, which did not disclose her nationality or provide additional information about the incident. Customs and Border Protection's internal affairs office will investigate, and the Homeland Security Department's inspector general and Harlingen police have been notified, Miller said. Sgt. Larry Moore, a spokesman for the Harlingen Police Department, said he had no information about the death.

Texas Legislature OKs ban on gender-affirming care for minors

AUSTIN, Texas (AP)—Texas would become the largest state to ban gender-affirming care for minors under a bill sent Wednesday night to Republican Gov. Greg Abbott, who has previously ordered child welfare officials to investigate such treatment as abuse. The bill cleared the GOP-controlled Legislature after a final vote in the Senate over the objections of Democrats, who used parliamentary maneuvers in recent weeks to delay passage but could not

derail it entirely. Texas is now poised to join at least 17 other states that have enacted similar bans. Abbott's office did not return an email seeking comment Wednesday night. Last year, Abbott became the first governor to order the investigation of families who were receiving care. The investigations were later halted by a Texas judge. Every major medical organization, including the American Medical Association, has opposed the bans and supported the medical care for minors when administered appropriately.

Wisconsin tribe to ask court to shut down oil pipeline

MADISON, Wis. (AP)—Attorneys for a Wisconsin Native American tribe are set to argue Thursday that a federal judge should order an energy company to shut down an oil pipeline that the tribe says is at immediate risk of being exposed by erosion and rupturing on reservation land. The Bad River Band of Lake Superior Chippewa asked U.S. District Judge William Conley last week to issue an emergency ruling forcing Enbridge to shut down the Line 5 pipeline after large chunks of riverbank running alongside it were washed away by the river in northern Wisconsin. The tribe says less than 15 feet (4.6 meters) of land now stands between the Bad River and Line 5 in four locations on the reservation. In some places, more than 20 feet (6 meters) of riverbank has eroded in the past month alone. Experts and environmental advocates have warned in court that an exposed section of pipeline would be weakened and could rupture at any time, causing massive oil spills.

Asia

AFTER DEVASTATING CYCLONE MOCHA

Myanmar, Bangladesh begin cleanup, count casualties

BANGKOK (AP)—Recovery efforts were underway Tuesday in Myanmar and Bangladesh after a powerful cyclone smashed into their coastlines, causing widespread destruction and at least 21 deaths, with hundreds of others believed missing.

Myanmar took the brunt of Cyclone Mocha on Sunday, while Bangladesh was spared a feared catastrophe.

Residents of Myanmar's Rakhine state worked to repair the damage and mourn the dead. Areas further inland also suffered damage, including the central city of Bagan, a UNESCO World Heritage Site that was Myanmar's capital 10 centuries ago.

Mocha made landfall near Sittwe township in Rakhine state with winds of up to 209 kilometers (130 miles) per hour on Sunday afternoon, weakening to a tropical depression by midday Monday. The storm, the nation's most destructive in a decade, brought widespread flash floods and power outages, while high winds tore roofs off buildings and crumpled cellphone towers.

Myanmar state-run television MRTV said Tuesday that 21 people were killed and 11,532 houses, 73 religious buildings, 47 monasteries, 163 schools, 29 hospitals and clinics and 112 government buildings were damaged.

Independent media said hundreds more people were believed missing. Many of those reported dead or un-



Local residents walk past damaged buildings after Cyclone Mocha in Sittwe township, Rakhine State, Myanmar, Tuesday, May 16, 2023. AP

accounted for had been living in ramshackle displacement camps that were reportedly heavily damaged by the storm surge.

The camps house members of the Muslim Rohingya minority who lost their homes in a brutal 2017 counterinsurgency campaign led by Myanmar security forces. Aid agency presence is spotty and help from the country's military government negligible.

It is difficult to confirm the extent of casualties and dam-

age because telecommunication facilities in the area were damaged by the storm's high winds. Information is hard to obtain even in normal times because the military restricts the media.

Sahat Khasin, a Rohingya who does relief work at one of the camps, said by phone he helped bury 11 bodies at a Muslim cemetery near Sittwe, Rakhine's state capital on the Bay of Bengal.

He said the authorities warned people in the camps to evacuate to safer places in ad-

vance of the cyclone's arrival, but some waited until seawater began pouring in.

Video from Sittwe on Tuesday showed extensive damage to buildings as well as uprooted trees and fallen power lines.

Heavy rain in Bagan, the ancient city that is one of Myanmar's major tourist attractions, caused flooding that weakened the foundations of

at least four temples. MRTV reported that the head of Myanmar's military government, Senior Gen. Min Aung Hlaing, visited Tuesday to inspect the damage.

U.N. spokesman Stephane Dujarric said Tuesday that investment in humanitarian aid was needed. Health, relief items, shelter, water and sanitation were the top priorities,

and he noted that humanitarian agencies would need authorization to travel to deliver those supplies and would need access to people impacted by the cyclone.

Myanmar's government issued disaster declarations for 17 townships in Rakhine and four in Chin state, north of Rakhine, where hundreds of buildings were reported damaged.

Rohingya are not recognized as an official minority in Buddhist-majority Myanmar, where they face widespread discrimination and are denied citizenship and other basic rights. People living in the camps cannot move freely, according to human rights groups.

More than 700,000 other Rohingya fled the 2017 violence to live in refugee camps in neighboring Bangladesh, which also suffered damage from the cyclone but reported no deaths.

At the world's largest refugee camp in Bangladesh's Cox's Bazar district, thousands of Rohingya from Myanmar were moved to safer areas until Cyclone Mocha passed. The low-lying area is especially vulnerable to flooding, with relatively few secure shelters available.

Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina said more than 700,000 people were moved to cyclone shelters or makeshift facilities including schools and mosques.

ASIAN BRIEFS

39 missing after Chinese fishing boat capsizes

BEIJING (AP)—Several ships and aircraft searched Wednesday for 39 people reported missing after a Chinese fishing boat capsized in the middle of the Indian Ocean. Chinese state broadcaster CCTV said the accident happened around 3 a.m. Tuesday. The report said the crew includes 17 from China, 17 from Indonesia and five from the Philippines. Chinese leader Xi Jinping and Prime Minister Li Qiang have ordered Chinese diplomats abroad, as well as the agriculture and transportation ministries, to assist in the search for survivors. "All-out efforts" must be made in the rescue operation, Xi was quoted as saying by the official Xinhua News Agency. Li ordered unspecified measures to "reduce casualties and strengthen safety management of fishing vessels at sea to ensure safe maritime transport and production," Xinhua said.

Police officer opens fire at bus at girls' school in Pakistan

PESHAWAR, Pakistan (AP)—A police officer tasked with protecting a private school for girls in northwestern Pakistan on Tuesday opened fire at a school bus carrying teachers and students, killing an 8-year-old girl and injuring five others, officials said. The shooting happened in the Swat Valley in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province. Senior police official Nasir Satti said officer Alam Khan was immediately

arrested. He said the shooting was not a militant attack. Satti said officers were questioning Khan to determine what prompted him to fire at the bus as it was leaving the school that serves girls up to age 17. He said four students and a woman who was on the bus were injured in the shooting. Satti said Khan was on security duty at the school because of concerns of possible militant attacks.

Thailand's Move Forward Party in talks with 5 other parties

BANGKOK (AP)—Thailand's progressive Move Forward Party on Wednesday held its first face-to-face discussions with five other parties in an attempt to form a coalition government, three days after scoring a stunning national election victory. A new government will be formed in July when the House of Representatives and the appointed Senate select a new prime minister. Because of the joint vote, Sunday's election victor is not assured of taking power. Representatives of the five parties, mostly members of the opposition to Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-ocha's conservative government, met for several hours Wednesday. Afterward they emerged smiling and posed for photos with hands linked in a sign of unity. Chief among the potential partners is the Pheu Thai party, currently the biggest opposition group in the House, which had been favored to top the polls but ended up running a close second.

Heat wave in Asia made 30 times more likely due to climate change

BENGALURU, India (AP)—A searing heat wave in parts of southern Asia in April this year was made at least 30 times more likely by climate change, according to a rapid study by international scientists released Wednesday.

Sizzling temperatures of up to 45 degrees Celsius (113 degrees Fahrenheit) were recorded in monitoring stations in parts of India, Bangladesh, Thailand and Laos last month—which was unusually high for the time of year.

The climate change-fueled heat caused deaths, widespread hospitalizations, damaged roads, sparked fires and led to school closures in the region.

The World Weather Attribution group uses established models to quickly determine whether climate change played a part in extreme weather events. While

the studies themselves are not yet peer-reviewed, which is the gold standard for science, they are often later published in peer-reviewed journals.

In Thailand, high temperatures mixed with humidity meant some parts of the country felt above 50 degrees Celsius (122 degrees Fahrenheit). In India, multiple regions across the country were affected with 13 people dying due to heat at a public event outside India's business capital, Mumbai. The eastern Indian state of West Bengal closed all schools and colleges for a week.

The study found that temperatures were at least 2 degrees Celsius (3.6 degrees Fahrenheit) hotter in the region because of climate change.

If the global average temperature reaches up to 2 degrees Celsius warmer than it was in the late 1800s, the April

heatwave could occur every one to two years in India and Bangladesh, the study said. Currently, the world is around 1.1 to 1.2 degrees Celsius (2 to 2.2 degrees Fahrenheit) warmer than pre-industrial times.

"We see again and again that climate change dramatically increases the frequency and intensity of heatwaves, one of the deadliest weather events there are," said Friedrike Otto, a senior climate scientist at Imperial College London and one of the study's authors.

Heat action plans—which are government-run and funded and aim to help people deal with extreme heat through awareness programs, training for healthcare workers and affordable cooling methods—need to be implemented faster in India and other heat-affected countries, the study's authors said.

World

Russia agrees to extend Ukraine grain deal

ANKARA, Turkey (AP)—Russia agreed to a two-month extension of a deal that has allowed Ukraine to ship grain through the Black Sea to parts of the world struggling with hunger, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan announced Wednesday, a boost to global food security after the war drove up prices.

Turkey and the U.N. brokered the breakthrough accord with the warring sides last summer, which came with a separate agreement to facilitate shipments of Russian food and fertilizer that Moscow insists hasn't been applied.

Russia had threatened to bow out if its concerns were not ironed out by Thursday. Such brinkmanship isn't new: With a similar extension in the balance in March, Russia unilaterally decided to renew the deal for 60 days instead of the 120 days outlined in the agreement.

Russian Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Maria Zakharova said Wednesday that problems would need to be resolved "at the technical level." Neither she nor Erdogan mentioned any concessions Moscow may have received.

"We will continue our efforts to ensure that all the conditions of the agreement are fulfilled so that it contin-



Workers load grain at a grain port in Izmail, Ukraine, on April 26, 2023.

ues in the next period," said Erdogan, who announced the highly anticipated decision two days after being forced into a runoff in Turkey's presidential election.

Extending the Black Sea Grain Initiative is a win for countries in Africa, the Middle East and parts of Asia

that rely on Ukrainian wheat, barley, vegetable oil and other affordable food products, especially as drought takes a toll. The deal helped lower prices of food commodities like wheat over the last year, but that relief has not reached kitchen tables.

"Ukrainian and Russian

products feed the world," U.N. Secretary-General António Guterres said. "They matter because we are still in the throes of a record-breaking cost-of-living crisis."

Deputy Prime Minister Alexander Kubrakov welcomed the extension, but emphasized that the deal "has to work effectively." On Facebook, he blamed Russia for dragging its heels on joint inspections of

ships by Russian, Ukrainian, U.N. and Turkish officials.

Average daily inspections—meant to ensure vessels carry only food and not weapons that could aid either side—have steadily dropped from a peak of 10.6 in October to 3.2 last month. Shipments of Ukrainian grain also have declined in recent weeks.

Russia had denied slowing the work. No vessels have

been cleared to enter Ukraine's three open ports since May 6, and Kubrakov says nearly 70 vessels are waiting in Turkish waters to participate.

Russia, meanwhile, is shipping record amounts of its wheat through other ports. Critics say that suggests Moscow was posturing or trying to wrest concessions in areas such as Western sanctions.

The deal has allowed over 30 million metric tons of Ukrainian grain to be shipped, with more than half that going to developing nations. China, Spain and Turkey are the biggest recipients, and Russia says that shows food isn't going to the poorest countries.

Guterres has said developed countries bring in Ukrainian corn for animal feed, while emerging economies receive "a majority" of grain for people to eat. He noted exports bring prices down for everyone.

"Looking ahead, we hope that exports of food and fertilizers, including ammonia, from the Russian Federation and Ukraine will be able to reach global supply chains safely and predictably," the U.N. chief said Wednesday.

The U.S. said Russia should stop creating hurdles to the deal.

"We should not need to remind Moscow every few weeks to keep their promises and to stop using people's hunger as a weapon in their war against Ukraine," State Department deputy spokesman Vedant Patel told reporters.

Israel deploys heavy police presence ahead of contentious march

JERUSALEM (AP)—Israel deployed over 2,000 police on Thursday for a march by flag-waving Jewish nationalists through the main Palestinian thoroughfare in Jerusalem's Old City, a contentious event that comes as tensions are already running high.

Authorities say the beefed up security is a determined effort to ensure the march passes without violence.

Police have decided to allow the thousands of marchers to take the traditional route through the Old City's Damascus Gate—despite an uptick in Israeli-Palestinian violence over the past year and heavy fighting between Israel and Palestinian militants in Gaza last week.

Early Thursday, hundreds of Jews were ascending to a sensitive Jerusalem site holy to both Jews and Muslims as part of the day's activities, visits the Palestinians view as provocative. Among them was at least one Israeli Cabinet minister from the country's right-wing government, according to Jewish activists leading the visits.

While Israeli officials de-

scribe the march as a festive parade, it has been marred by anti-Arab racist chants and violence toward local Palestinians by some of the marchers. Two years ago, it helped spark an 11-day war between Israel and Palestinian militants in Gaza, and the Hamas militant group has urged Palestinians to confront the parade this year.

Chief Supt. Yoram Segal, a senior Jerusalem police official, told reporters Wednesday that authorities were determined to prevent violence this time around.

He said some 2,500 officers were being deployed throughout the area, both to ensure safety and to react quickly toward any potential violence.

"We are going to deal harshly with anyone who tries to disturb the peace," he said. He said past troubles were caused by a tiny minority of people, but said there there would be no tolerance for incitement or violence that could "endanger the people that are along the route or living along the route."

Segal said police have been working "hand in hand" with

Jewish and Palestinian community leaders to keep things peaceful. He also confirmed that there had been a number of pre-emptive arrests of people who were believed to be planning violent disruptions. He declined to elaborate.

The march marks "Jerusalem Day," which celebrates Israel's capture of east Jerusalem in the 1967 Mideast war. Israel considers all of Jerusalem to be its eternal capital, but its annexation of the eastern sector, home to the city's most important holy sites, is not internationally recognized. The Palestinians claim east Jerusalem as capital of their future state.

Each year, thousands of Israeli nationalists participate in the march, waving blue and white Israeli flags and singing songs. But in some cases, protesters chant anti-Arab slogans as they pass by Palestinian onlookers and businesses.

Israel's national security minister, far-right politician Itamar Ben-Gvir, has joined the march in past years. It was not known whether he would join this year, his first as a Cabinet minister.

Brazil sends thousands of Venezuelan migrants to rich southern states

PACARAIMA, Brazil (AP)—As the sun rose, Miguel Gonzalez, partner Maryelis Rodriguez and their four young children got off a passenger bus after an 18-hour ride south from the eastern Venezuelan community they desperately wanted to leave.

The parents, with minds still muzzy from sleep, retrieved two duffel bags and assessed needs before entering the station: Diaper change for the 1-year-old. Restrooms for the 2-, 4- and 6-year-old. Directions to Brazil.

"Taxi? Taxi?" hawkish cab drivers asked everyone walking through the Santa Elena de Uairen station, where thousands of people every month walk through Venezuelan territory one last time. Roughly a half hour later, the Gonzalez family, like dozens of others every day, became migrants for the first time when they exited a taxi in Pacaraima, Brazil.

More than 7.2 million people have left Venezuela since the country's political, eco-

nomie and social crisis began last decade. Most have gone to Spanish-speaking countries of South America—with 2.4 million in Colombia alone—and many to the U.S. and Spain.

Further down the list of destinations has been Venezuela's Portuguese-speaking, next-door neighbor: Brazil.

But Brazil has become a popular choice for many Venezuelans partly because of a five-year-old program that offers eligible applicants work permits and even free flights to faraway parts of the huge country. Approvals into the program have surged in the post-pandemic period.

"I want to give well-being to my children," said Gonzalez, who began planning to migrate in October after witnessing violent clashes around the gold mine where he worked.

"There is no life" in Venezuela, he said, because if the family stays there the children "are not going to study, they are not going to have a future."

The Gonzalez family is ap-

plying for Brazil's "interiorization" program, launched in 2018 to ease pressure on the country's far northern state of Roraima as it dealt with Venezuelans flowing across the border after food and medicine shortages at home became acute.

The program moves the migrants to other cities with better economic opportunities, especially in the country's rich southern states. It has taken in about 100,000 of the 426,000 Venezuelans who have migrated to Brazil during the crisis—with the highest monthly rate so far in March of this year with 3,377.

The Gonzalez family sold their fridge, fan, kitchen, bed and other furniture, stuffed clothes and diapers in duffel bags and backpacks, and began their migration journey from their community of San Felix with \$500. They spent \$90 to get to Santa Elena de Uairen and \$20 to get to Pacaraima, where they applied for the program.



IN LOVING MEMORY OF

Maria Muna Indalecio

May 30, 1940 - May 15, 2023
Called to Eternal Life on May 15, 2023

In her new life, she will be greeted and reunited with her:

Mother: †Carmen Guillis Muna (Naidita)
Father: †Jose Cabrera Muna
Spouse: †Herman Taimanao Indalecio
Son: †Martin Muna Indalecio
Grandson: †Christopher Ray Indalecio
Brothers: †Vicente Guillis Muna
†Bonifacio Guillis Muna
†Juan Guillis Muna
Sisters: †Remedio Guillis Muna
†Juanita Guillis Muna Charfauros
In-laws: †Albert Palacios Indalecio
†Magdalena Taimanao Indalecio

She will forever be remembered in the hearts of her:

Children: Diana I. / Brian Clayton
Fabian M. / Cheryl Indalecio and Children
†Martin M. Indalecio and Children
Cynthia I. / Chris Brown and Children
Arnold M. / Antonia B. Indalecio and Children
Herman M. Indalecio, Jr.
Norman Anthony M. Indalecio and Children
Bertha I. / James Ada and Children
Ramona I. / Ruben Corpuz and Children
Georgia Ann I. / Jose Duenas and Children
Raymond M. / Joanne DLG. Castro and Children
Kinship Family: Julita I. Shamim

Brothers: †Vicente Guillis / Francisca B. Muna and Family
†Bonifacio Guillis Muna and Family
†Juan Guillis / Myrna R. Muna and Family

Sisters: †Remedio G. Muna
Bernadita M. / †David O. Sablan and Family
Susana G. Muna and Family
Ignacia M. / Pedro Sablan and Family
Jacinta B. / †Larry T. Lacy and Family
†Juanita M. / Richard Charfauros and Family

Brothers and Sisters In-Laws:
†Henry T. / †Ana S. Indalecio and Family
Rita I. / †Francisco A. Reyes (Candido) and Family
Rosa I. / Jose A. Ichihara and Family
Luis T. / Kitt Indalecio and Family
Raymond I. / Melanie Ichihara and Family

†**Maria** will also be missed by her numerous friends and relatives.

On Tuesday, May 23, 2023, our beloved †**Maria** will be escorted from CHCC Morgue to Borja Funeral Homes for funeral service and public viewing, which will begin from 9:00 am to 10:30 am. Burial will follow immediately at Tanapag Cemetery where she will be laid at her final resting place.

Your thoughts, prayers, words of comfort and presence are sincerely appreciated.

Thank you, Si Yu'us Ma'ase and Ghillisow.

The Children of †Maria Muna Indalecio and Family

Off The Wall

Surfing gator seen relaxing at Alabama beach amid waves

By BEATRICE DUPUY
ASSOCIATED PRESS

There are plenty of alligators in Alabama. But how many enjoy a day at the beach?

One such unlikely critter was spotted riding the waves recently on Dauphin Island, bobbing calmly near the human beachgoers sunbathing and wading.

Matt Harvill, a 27-year-old Mobile resident, came across the lengthy gator on May 7 while at the beach taking pregnancy announcement photos with his girlfriend.

He said the reptile seemed to be enjoying the sun and gently breaking waves, attracting several beachgoers to get a closer look—but not too close.

“It didn’t hiss, charge or open its mouth at all,” Harvill said. “It seemed like it was kind of spectating and seeing



An alligator swims up to the beach on Dauphin Island, near Mobile, Ala., Sunday, May 7, 2023. AP

what was going on.”

Harvill snapped photos and videos of the gator to show family and friends. His post on Facebook garnered 3,000 shares.

“The things you never think you’ll see,” he wrote in the caption. “First time seeing a gator on Dauphin Island. Heading towards the west end be careful y’all.”

Alligators are found through-

out Alabama in saltwater bayous and estuaries, said Marianne Gauldin, outreach coordinator for the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources.

“It is not unusual to see them in the Gulf of Mexico as they can tolerate a variety of salinity levels,” she said in an email. “They are aquatic and cover long distances as they forage for prey items.”

Church members hoping whoever stole truckload of organ pipes will repent, shipment can be recovered

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (AP)—Members of a Tennessee church are hoping and praying that whoever stole a moving truck over the weekend will repent after finding out what’s inside: old organ pipes, and lots of them.

Calvary Episcopal Church in downtown Memphis had loaded a Penske truck with nearly 2,000 organ pipes for transport to Spencer Organ Company in Boston, where they were to undergo restoration, news outlets reported.

Instead the church discovered on Sunday that the truck and the almost 90-year-old pipes were gone.

Spencer Organ Company owner Joseph Rotella said in a police report that the pipes have limited value to whoever has them now.

“They have amazing intrinsic value to this project, they are historic. It is going to be very hard to duplicate them, but they don’t have a lot of value outside of this organ,” Rotella said.

A statement posted on the church’s website says Memphis Police and Penske are involved in the search for the missing truck. The church also relayed that Rotella said industry colleagues have experienced similar thefts.

“In those cases, the thieves realized that the contents of the van had little to no street value and abandoned the vehicles,” the statement said. “We hope for a similar resolution in the days to come.”

OFFBEAT BRIEFS

LA volunteer police officer hospitalized after getting stung on face by swarm of bees

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A volunteer police officer responding to a report of a bee swarm was hospitalized after getting stung multiple times on his face and collapsing onto the street in a Los Angeles neighborhood. A TV news helicopter recorded dramatic video of the attack Monday afternoon in the Encino area as the man flailed around while trying to swat the bees away. He tripped and fell, hitting his head on the ground. The uniformed volunteer officer was treated for a fractured eye socket and bee stings to his face and eyes, the Los Angeles Police Department said in a statement Tuesday. He was in stable condition, the statement said. The of-

ficer and his partner were assisting with traffic control when the attack occurred, police said. A professional bee-removal service was called to the neighborhood in the San Fernando Valley northwest of downtown LA, the city’s fire department said.

Bear in a tree holds Michigan city in suspense for hours on Mother’s Day

TRAVERSE CITY, Mich. (AP)—A city in northern Michigan has a new Mother’s Day memory: A 350-pound bear was in a tree for hours, watched by dozens of people, before it fell asleep and dropped onto mattresses below. “It’s like the best block party ever,” Annette Andersen said. The drama in Traverse City began when wildlife experts responded to a morning

call about a bear in a leafy tree. They fired at least four tranquilizer darts into his butt. The bear snoozed on a thick limb before finally dropping to the ground by early afternoon Sunday. Ashlea Walter hauled mattresses from her house to soften the fall, the Traverse City Record-Eagle reported. Spectators sitting on lawns or in chairs held their phones up to take pictures and video. “They’re a tough animal,” said Steve Griffith, a state wildlife biologist. “Obviously they are in trees all the time, and they do have accidents in the wild. ... They can take a pretty good fall.”

The bear was transferred on a tarp to a cylindrical bear trap after his vital signs and airway were checked. Next stop: a long drive and release in a wooded area, “probably 50-60 miles at minimum,” Griffith said.

Science & Technology

TSA testing facial recognition

BALTIMORE (AP)—A passenger walks up to an airport security checkpoint, slips an ID card into a slot and looks into a camera atop a small screen. The screen flashes “Photo Complete” and the person walks through—all without having to hand over their identification to the TSA officer sitting behind the screen.

It’s all part of a pilot project by the Transportation Security Administration to assess the use of facial recognition technology at a number of airports across the country.

“What we are trying to do with this is aid the officers to actually determine that you are who you say who you are,” said Jason Lim, identity management capabilities manager, during a demonstration of the technology to reporters at Baltimore-Washington International Thurgood Marshall Airport.

The effort comes at a time when the use of various forms of technology to enhance security and streamline procedures is only increasing. TSA says the pilot is voluntary and accurate, but critics have



A person poses for a photo while demonstrating the Transportation Security Administration’s new facial recognition technology at a Baltimore-Washington International Thurgood Marshall Airport security checkpoint, Wednesday, April 26, 2023, in Glen Burnie, Md. AP

raised concerns about questions of bias in facial recognition technology and possible repercussions for passengers who want to opt out.

The technology is currently in 16 airports. In addition to Baltimore, it’s being used at Reagan National near Washington, D.C., airports in Atlanta, Boston, Dallas, Denver, Detroit, Las Vegas, Los Angeles, Miami, Orlando, Phoenix, Salt Lake City, San Jose, and Gulfport-Biloxi and Jackson in Mississippi. However, it’s not at every TSA checkpoint so not every traveler going

through those airports would necessarily experience it.

Travelers put their driver’s license into a slot that reads the card or place their passport photo against a card reader. Then they look at a camera on a screen about the size of an iPad, which captures their image and compares it to their ID. The technology is both checking to make sure the people at the airport match the ID they present and that the identification is in fact real. A TSA officer is still there and signs off on the screening.

Science Matters



Pierced deer tooth dates from 19,000 to 25,000 years ago

Human DNA adhered to the porous tooth

DNA of ancient ornament’s owner

Twenty thousand years ago, a woman in Siberia made or wore a deer’s tooth with a hole drilled in it, perhaps as part of a necklace. Researchers have recovered her DNA.



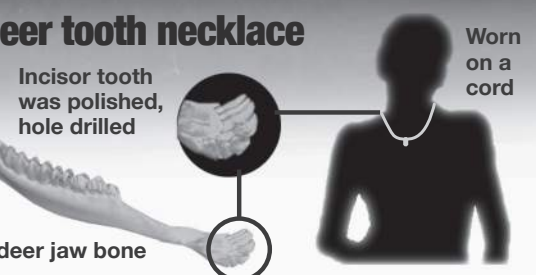
Cave has been a rich source of Stone Age human bone fragments, DNA and artifacts

© 2023 TNS
Source: Elena Essel of Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology; Nature journal
Graphic: Helen Lee McComas, Tribune News Service

Deer tooth necklace

Incisor tooth was polished, hole drilled

Wapiti deer jaw bone



How human’s DNA was isolated

1 Object was submerged in a sodium phosphate buffer solution to control acidity

2 Chemical bath was warmed to 90°C to release the DNA without damaging the artifact



Contaminating DNA kept from sample

3 Analysis found deer DNA and female human DNA that had been transferred to the tooth by wearer’s sweat, skin

She was related to North Eurasians who lived then but have been found only further east in Siberia

Life & Style

Man indicted in theft of ‘Wizard of Oz’ ruby slippers

By MARGARET STAFFORD
ASSOCIATED PRESS

A man has been indicted by a grand jury on charges of stealing a pair of ruby red slippers worn by Judy Garland in “The Wizard of Oz,” federal prosecutors in North Dakota say. The shoes were stolen in 2005 and recovered in a 2018 FBI sting operation, but no arrests were made at the time.

Terry Martin was indicted Tuesday with one count of theft of a major artwork, prosecutors announced Wednesday. The indictment did not provide any further information about Martin and online records do not list an attorney for him.

The Minneapolis Star-Tribune reported that Martin is 76 and lives 12 miles south of the Judy Garland Museum in Grand Rapids, Minnesota. When reached by the newspaper, he said, “I gotta go on trial. I don’t want to talk to you.”

Janie Heitz, executive director of the museum, told The Associated Press she was sur-

prised the suspect lived nearby but said no one who works at the museum knows him.

Garland wore several pairs of the ruby slippers during production of the 1939 musical, but only four authentic pairs remain. When they were stolen, the slippers were insured for \$1 million but the current market value is about \$3.5 million, federal prosecutors said in a news release.

The slippers were on loan to the Judy Garland Museum in the late actor’s hometown when someone climbed through a window and broke the display case, prosecutors said when they were recovered.

Heitz said she and the museum’s staff were “a little bit speechless” that someone had been charged nearly two decades after the slippers were stolen.

Over the years, several enticing rewards were offered in hopes that the slippers would turn up. Law enforcement offered \$250,000 early in the

case, and an anonymous donor from Arizona put up \$1 million in 2015.

The road to the missing slippers began when a man told the shoes’ insurer in 2017 that he could help get them back. After a nearly year-long investigation, the FBI nabbed the shoes in Minneapolis in July 2018. At the time, the bureau said no one has been arrested or charged in the case.

On Wednesday, a summons was issued for Martin. An initial court appearance was set for June 1, and it will be via video. Terry Van Horn, spokesman for the U.S. Justice Department in North Dakota, said he could not provide any information beyond what was included in the one-paragraph-indictment.

The shoes are famously associated with one of the iconic lines in “The Wizard of Oz,” as Garland’s character Dorothy clicks her heels and repeats the phrase, “There’s no place like home.” They are made from about a dozen



A pair of ruby slippers once worn by actress Judy Garland in the “The Wizard of Oz” sit on display at a news conference on Sept. 4, 2018, at the FBI office in Brooklyn Center, Minn.

different materials, including wood pulp, silk thread, gelatin, plastic and glass. Most of the ruby color comes from sequins but the bows of the shoes contain red glass beads.

The three other pairs Garland wore in the movie were

held by the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, the Smithsonian, and a private collector.

When they were stolen, the slippers were on loan from Hollywood memorabilia collector Michael Shaw,

who received an insurance payment seven years after the theft, according to the museum’s director.

Heitz said the museum staff hopes the slippers will return to Garland’s hometown after the legal case ends.

Prince Harry, Meghan made getaway in NY taxi after being trailed by paparazzi

NEW YORK (AP)—Prince Harry and his wife, Meghan, were trailed in their car by photographers as they left a New York City charity event Tuesday night, briefly taking refuge at a police station before being whisked away in a yellow taxicab.

The pursuit and media frenzy evoked memories of the 1997 car chase through Paris that killed Harry’s mother, Princess Diana—though in this case, police

said, no one was hurt.

The royal couple set off alarms when their spokesperson claimed Wednesday that they had been dangerously pursued by paparazzi in a “near catastrophic car chase” through the streets of Manhattan. That account led New York City Mayor Eric Adams to condemn the paparazzi chasing them as “reckless and irresponsible.”

Later, though, police said the pursuit was relatively

short and led to no injuries, collisions or arrests, and warranted no further investigation. Still, it drove home real security concerns surrounding the royal couple and the trauma brought on by the death of Harry’s mother when he was just 12 years old.

The cab driver who drove them from the police station said he instantly recognized his passengers and that paparazzi “were following us the whole time,” though he

said wouldn’t call it a chase.

“They had this look on their faces,” the driver, Sukhcham Singh, said. “All of a sudden paparazzi came out and started taking pictures.”

Police issued a short statement confirming an incident Tuesday night involving photographers and the Duke and Duchess of Sussex, who were accompanied by Meghan’s mother.

Meanwhile, police in California were called this week about an episode near the couple’s property in Montecito. A man was arrested shortly after 2 a.m. Monday on suspicion of prowling

near the property, the Santa Barbara County Sheriff’s Office said in a statement.

It wasn’t immediately clear whether the man actually entered the property. He was released on \$2,500 bail after the misdemeanor arrest.

A message seeking comment on the arrest was sent Wednesday evening to a representative for the couple.

In New York on Tuesday night, the couple left Manhattan’s Ziegfeld Ballroom—where Meghan had just accepted the Ms. Foundation’s Woman of Vision Awards with Black Voters Matter co-founder LaTosha

Brown—and got into an SUV as crowds of pedestrians and photographers gawked, according to video posted to social media.

Harry and Meghan’s vehicle was then followed by photographers in a scene that their office said “resulted in multiple near collisions involving other drivers on the road, pedestrians and two NYPD officers.” The couple’s office called the incident “near catastrophic.”

Police intervened and, assisting the couple’s private security detail, led them to a police station about 18 blocks from the ballroom, a law enforcement official told the AP.

Boyfriend steps up to act as caregiver

DEAR ABBY: I have been with my boyfriend for three months. We’ve had our ups and downs. He’s more into me than I am into him. I was recently diagnosed with breast cancer, and he has offered to drive me to my surgery and help me at home in recovery. He’s also willing to take me to my follow-ups and help with anything else I may need.

He’s retired, has time and resources, and he cares a great deal about me. We live about two miles apart. I like him, too. I think that after knowing someone for only a few months, it takes a special character and a huge amount of caring to take on being their caregiver after a major surgery. There will be a lot of driving to another city and back.

I don’t really have anyone else—no family. I’m thankful to him for doing this, but I wonder what kind of support he is going to need and how I can show my appreciation. So far, he has been very loyal and committed.

GRATEFUL IN OREGON

■■■

DEAR GRATEFUL: This man may be more into you at this point in your relationship, but let’s see how you feel after your surgery and recuperation. From where I sit, that man is a keeper. I have heard from women whose husbands ran for the door upon learning their wives re-

ceived a cancer diagnosis, or after they started treatment.

It’s nice that you are worried he may not have the support he needs while he is taking care of you. If that’s the case, the American Cancer Society (cancer.org) offers support groups for caregivers as well as patients, and your doctor may be able to refer him to one. Take one day at a time. I wish you a speedy and complication-free recovery.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: I am a man who let a woman move into my house 10 years ago. She’s intelligent and said she was going to get a professional job in her former field, but she never tried. She moved all her possessions in, and her stuff is piled high everywhere. She’s a COVID fanatic and insists we live separately—she’s downstairs, and I’m upstairs. We are both fully vaccinated.

She puts food out for me, and I have not even been “allowed” to go downstairs in my own house. She has a bit of a temper. She pays no rent or utilities. She has little money yet refuses to take her Social Security, although she’s eligible, which I find bizarre. I’ve been reluctant to have her evicted. What can I do?

BIGGEST IDIOT ON EARTH

■■■

DEAR ‘IDIOT’: Call your lawyer and explain what has

DEAR ABBY

BY ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

been going on, because you may need assistance in following my advice, which is this: Tell the freeloading woman you have had it with the living arrangement and need her out of YOUR home. Give her a date by which she has to be out of there and, if there are any problems, formally evict her. You may have to give her a down payment on a rental, but only if you feel generous. It looks to me like you have allowed yourself to be taken advantage of.

To receive a collection of Abby’s most memorable – and most frequently requested – poems and essays, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby – Keepers Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

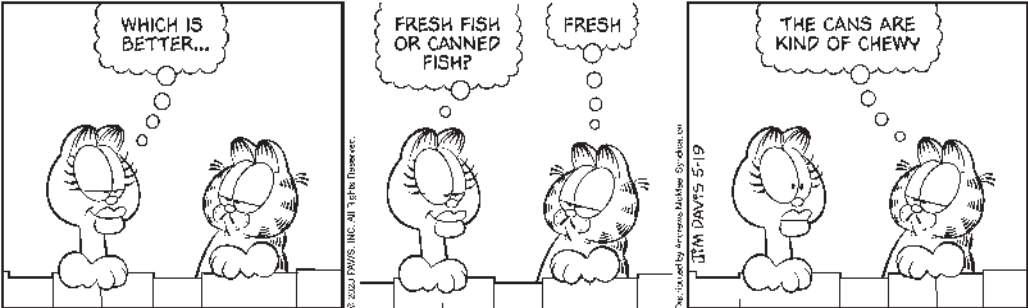
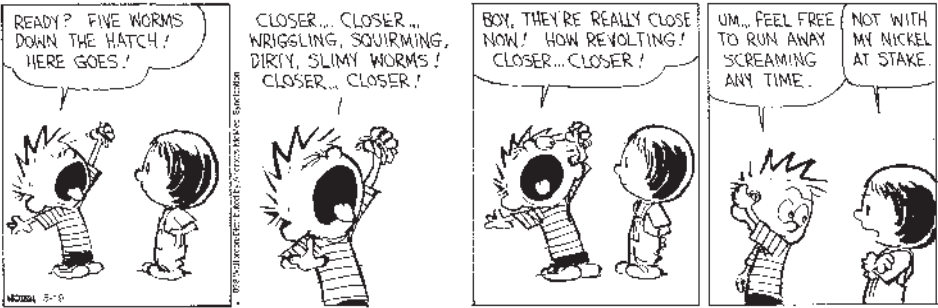
Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

Garfield®

By Jim Davis



Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Elmer, to Bugs

4 Dorm alter-native

8 Scruff

12 Corn unit

13 Swiss river

14 Commit-ment-phobe's response

15 Scrooge's clerk

17 Walking stick

18 Golf props

19 "August: Osage County" playwright Tracy

20 "Awe-some!"

22 Hammer target

24 Songbird

25 Melon variety

29 Luau instru-ment

30 Some shelter adoptees

DOWN

1 Calendar abbr.

2 Rowing tool

3 Like the moon's surface

4 Diamond side

5 Stadium cheers

6 "Exodus" hero

7 Asian holiday

8 In a pleasant way

9 Latin word

10 Gasp for air

11 Checks out

16 Ship wood

19 Fibs

20 Morose

21 Yard tool

22 — Dame

23 Picnic inter-lopers

25 Color-ations

26 Jimmy Carter, e.g.

27 Always

28 Long for

30 Roman 1052

33 Eugene O'Neill's works

34 Oil cartel

36 Stag

37 Omit

38 "Casa-blanca" role

39 Void partner

40 And others (Lat.)

42 Actor Vigoda

43 Online address

44 Khan title

45 — Mex cuisine

Solution time: 25 mins.

Yesterday's answer 5-19

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Dario Franchitti, 50; Polly Walker, 57; Grace Jones, 75; Pete Townshend, 78.

Happy Birthday: Get down to business and make the changes that get you closer to your dreams. Opportunity is all around you, but it's up to you to recognize and take advantage of what's available. Turn your space into a place that puts your mind at ease and inspires you to follow your heart and dreams. Talks will lead to romance and a detailed look at possibilities. Your numbers are 8, 12, 17, 29, 32, 38, 40.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Consider what's meaningful and enjoyable, and set a course to take you where you want to go. The goal is to eliminate stress by heading in a direction that offers comfort and satisfaction. Reconfigure your path to match your desire. ★★

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Check your options and consider what will help you reach your objective. Reach out to an expert or attend a conference that will broaden your vision and help you see how you can use your skills to advance. ★★

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Refuse to let anyone take advantage of you. Listen, and you'll see who you can trust not to take advantage of you. Sign up for something you want to learn or explore. Knowledge and experience are the keys to your success. ★★

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Use your expertise to help others. Your suggestions will give hope to those in need and help you establish what you have to offer. You'll advance

if you are willing to do the work in a unique and timely fashion. ★★

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Observe how others handle situations and proceed cautiously. You'll likely upset someone if you overreact or fall short when dealing with responsibilities. A steady pace and less drama will get you where you want to go. ★★

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Think, learn and make your decisions clear to others. Spend time with someone you love, and make plans that will encourage you to do more together. Sign up for an event or volunteer for a cause, and new relationships will blossom. ★★

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Physical work will rectify any anxiety you feel. Put your energy where it counts, and you'll feel better about yourself and your accomplishments. Make a change at home that adds to your comfort, releases stress and encourages a change in your living arrangements. ★★

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Something will pull you in an unexpected direction. Go with the flow, reach out to those you work well with and use your home base as your headquarters for your pursuits. Romance is in the stars, and the time to initiate travel, communication and plans is now. ★★

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Channel your energy into sorting through unfinished business and updating paperwork that has a due date. Don't trust or leave something important in the hands of someone unreliable. It's better to be safe than sorry. ★★

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Don't labor over what's wrong when putting your energy behind something that offers the rewards you want is within reach. Stay focused on the opportunities, host an event and spend time romancing someone you love. ★★

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Ensure you understand what others expect of you before committing. Emotional matters will escalate if you discuss sensitive issues. Be willing to stand up for your beliefs, regardless of the outcome. Have faith that when one door shuts another will open. ★★

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Count your savings and move money around, invest in something that will help you raise your worth, and discuss your intentions, feelings and plans with someone you love. Put your energy where it is sure to bring the highest return. Romance is favored. ★★

Birthday Baby: You are deliberate, intuitive and forceful. You are expressive and active.

★: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ★★: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ★★★: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ★★★★: Aim high; start new projects. ★★★★★: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

SUDOKU

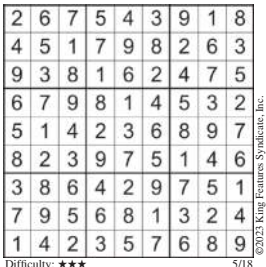
Conceptis Sudoku By Dave Green



Difficulty: ★★★★★ 5/19 ©2012 Conceptis Puzzles, Dist. by King Features Syndicate, Inc.

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer



WONDERWORD By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

MARY QUANT (1930-2023) Solution: 7 letters

Y J S B S G D E R E T R A H C
R E A U O T R B A Z A A R H B
A W C C E U R E D N A X E L A
R E I K K M T I E S I L N U R
O L R I B S A I P N S O G F B
N R B N E T U S Q E E D I R A
O Y A G H E M L R A U S N S O R
H H F G R E M O L R H E A E L A
O S X A T P O M R E A L D O T
T I Y M S O C I E T Y R D C E
P T S K K H T N D M I O U L K
A I I N O C I I R O L E V A N
N R A R T S E O O D A M E S U
T B D R E S S S N I K S T S L
S T H G I T S I Z E C A L A P

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Alexander, Arts, Barbara, Bazaar, Berets, Boutique, British, Buckingham, Chartered, Chelsea Look, Class, Colorful, Cool, Daisy, Dame, Designer, Dress, Duvet, Fabric, Fashion, Greene, Honorary, Hotpants, Icon, Jack, Jewelry, Mini, Mod, Order, Orlando, Palace, Plunket, Role, Size, Skin, Skirt, Society, Stamp, Stripes, Sue Masaharu, Surrey, Tights
Yesterday's Answer: Elastic
The NEW Volume 70 can be purchased online at www.WonderWordBooks.com, or call 1-800-642-6480.

STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

Butler scores 35, Heat rally to beat Celtics in East finals opener

BOSTON (AP)—The Miami Heat were in need of a calming presence following a sluggish start to their latest conference finals showdown with the Boston Celtics.

Jimmy Butler provided that and a lot more.

Butler scored 35 points, including 20 after halftime, and the Heat rallied in the second half to beat the Celtics 123-116 in Game 1 of the Eastern Conference finals on Wednesday night.

He said his teammates have given him confidence.

"I'm playing at an incredible level because they are allowing me to do so," Butler said. "They are not putting a limit on my game. They are trusting me with the ball, on the defensive end. I think that's what any basketball player wants."

Miami trailed by nine at the half before turning it around with a franchise playoff-record 46 points in the third and outscoring Boston 66-50 over the final two quarters. It was Butler's fifth game with 30 or more points this postseason and he added seven assists, six steals and five rebounds.

"One of the premier two-way basketball players of this association. ... That's what we needed," Heat coach Erik Spoelstra said. "Down the stretch Jimmy was able to do



Miami Heat forward Jimmy Butler (22) drives to the basket against Boston Celtics guard Malcolm Brogdon (13) in the first half of Game 1 of the NBA basketball Eastern Conference finals playoff series in Boston, Wednesday, May 17, 2023.

everything we needed — as a scorer and as a facilitator."

Bam Adebayo added 20 points and eight rebounds. Kyle Lowry, Caleb Martin, Gabe Vincent and Max Strus all added 15 points apiece. The Heat went 16 of 31 from the 3-point line.

The No. 8-seeded Heat have opened all three play-

off series with road victories. Game 2 is Friday in Boston.

Jayson Tatum led the Celtics with 30 points, but didn't take a shot in the fourth quarter. Jaylen Brown finished with 22 points and nine rebounds. Malcolm Brogdon added 19 points.

Boston is just 4-4 at home during this postseason.

"I don't know why," Tatum said of their home struggles. "You've still got to play the game, you've got to make plays, regardless of whether you're home or away."

The Celtics, who are at their best when they're defending and getting up more shots than their opponents, were 10 of 29 from beyond the arc.

"We lost our offensive purpose," Celtics coach Joe Mazzulla said.

The tip-off of the series marked the third time in four seasons that the Heat and Celtics have met in this round. Boston won last year's matchup in seven games.

Wednesday's opener felt every bit like a continuation of that most recent meeting. Boston dominated inside early on and led by nine at halftime.

Spoelstra said his team was "more intentional" over the final 24 minutes.

Miami took a page out of the Celtics' book and used a 13-1 run to quickly erase that

gap, tying the game at 78 in the third quarter. During the next timeout Mazzulla was captured by broadcast cameras throwing a clipboard in frustration.

Boston couldn't stop the onslaught and Miami then nudged back in front as Butler penetrated to create opportunities for his teammates.

The Heat outscored the Celtics 46-25 in the period and took a 103-91 lead into the fourth, prompting a few boos from the TD Garden crowd.

Boston responded, scoring the first seven points of the final period before a 3-pointer by Vincent ended the run.

Miami led 114-109 with just over three minutes to play when Brogdon was fouled by Butler. But he connected on just 1 of the 2 free throws. Butler was trapped on the next Miami possession before finding Martin for a corner 3.

Tatum travelled, giving the ball back to the Heat. A Miami miss gave the ball back to Boston, but Tatum was called again for travelling.

Miami wound the shot clock down before getting a 3-pointer by Butler to rattle in with 1:03 remaining.

But everything changed in the second half.

"We are just playing really good basketball," Butler said. "More than anything, we are staying together through the good and through the bad."

The Heat are the fifth team to open with road wins in each of their first three series, joining the 2021 Hawks, 1999 Knicks, 1989 Bulls and 1981 Rockets. The Knicks were the only other No. 8 seed to make the conference finals.

Morant takes accountability for latest video, as Silver expresses disappointment

By **TIM REYNOLDS**
AP BASKETBALL WRITER

Ja Morant spoke out Tuesday night about his latest troubles, three days after the Memphis guard apparently held a firearm again while being broadcast on social media and was suspended by the Grizzlies from all team activities.

He's also being investigated by the NBA for his actions, two months after the league suspended him for essentially the same thing—displaying a gun on social media.

"I know I've disappointed a lot of people who have supported me," Morant said in a statement released Tuesday night by his representatives. "This is a journey and I recognize there is more work to do. My words may not mean much right now, but I take full accountability for my actions. I'm committed to continuing to work on myself."

His comments came a few hours after NBA Commissioner Adam Silver expressed disappointment over the situation. Silver handed down an eight-game suspension in March; there is no way of knowing yet what penalties Morant may face this time.

"Honestly, I was shocked

when I saw, this weekend, that video," Silver said in a televised interview with ESPN before the draft lottery in Chicago. "We're in the process of investigating it and we'll figure out exactly what happened as best as we can. The video's a bit grainy and all that, but I'm assuming the worst. We'll figure out exactly what happened there."

The first video, which cost Morant about \$669,000 in forfeited salary, came out in March. The second was captured Saturday night and widely shared online. It was streamed on the Instagram account of Morant associate Davonte Pack, a person familiar with the situation told The Associated Press, speaking on condition of anonymity because the Grizzlies have not commented on the specifics of the latest video.

The video streamed by Pack shows Morant briefly appearing to display a handgun. At the very brief moment—maybe less than a second—when Morant is shown holding what appears to be a weapon as he sits in the passenger seat of a vehicle, the livestream had 111 viewers.

"He could have injured, maimed, killed himself, someone else, with an act like that,"

Silver said. "And also the acknowledgement that he's a star. He has an incredibly huge following. And my concern — and I thought he shared with me — that millions if not tens of millions of kids globally would see him as having done something that was celebrating in a way that act of using a firearm in that fashion."

Morant said in March that he needed to work on himself, and when the season ended a couple weeks ago, he offered similar thoughts.

"Being disciplined on both sides, off the court making better decisions and on the court being locked in even more," Morant said. "Being a leader of this team, it pretty much starts with me. ... I've got to be better in that area."

Morant's five-year, \$194 million max contract is set to begin this coming season. He has deals with Nike and Powerade, though the sports drink company pulled an ad featuring Morant almost immediately after the March video emerged.

This is the third known NBA investigation surrounding Morant and the possible involvement of firearms so far in 2023.

Morant's actions were investigated after a Jan. 29 incident

in Memphis that he said led to Pack banned from Grizzlies' home games for a year. That incident followed a game against the Indiana Pacers; citing unnamed sources, The Indianapolis Star and USA Today reported that multiple members of the Pacers saw a red dot pointed at them while they were near the loading dock where their bus was located, and The Athletic reported that a Pacers security guard believed the laser was attached to a gun.

The NBA confirmed that unnamed individuals were banned from the arena but said its investigation found no evidence that anyone was threatened with a weapon.

Then came the Denver-area incident in the early hours of March 4, after the Grizzlies played a road game against the Nuggets when Morant started a livestream from inside a strip club while holding a gun. No charges were filed.

Morant and Pack also are involved in a civil lawsuit brought after an incident at Morant's home last summer, in which a then-17-year-old alleged that they assaulted him. Morant filed a countersuit on April 12, accusing the teen of slander, battery and assault.

76ers fire coach Doc Rivers

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—Doc Rivers' penchant for playoff collapses and second-round exits cost him his coaching job with the Philadelphia 76ers.

The 76ers fired Rivers on Tuesday following a third straight exit in the second round of the playoffs, and the second time over that span he lost a series lead and a Game 7.

Rivers led the 76ers to their second straight 50-win season behind NBA MVP Joel Embiid but again failed to lead them to the Eastern Conference Finals for the first time since 2001. The Sixers have not won an NBA championship since 1983.

"We're grateful for all he did in his three seasons here and thank him for the important impact he made on our franchise," team presi-

dent Daryl Morey said in a statement. "After having the chance to reflect upon our season, we decided that certain changes are necessary to further our goals of competing for a championship."

Morey was scheduled to address the decision at a news conference Wednesday.

The 76ers held a 3-2 semifinals series lead against Boston before dropping Game 6 at home and were crushed in Game 7 on the road.

Rivers fell to 6-10 in Game 7s. The 10 defeats are five more than any other NBA coach.

Rivers and the 76ers also lost a decisive Game 7 at home in the second round to Atlanta in 2021 as a No. 1 seed. Embiid endorsed Rivers' return following Sunday's loss but James Harden was noncommittal about wanting their coach back.

Alonso's 3-run HR in 10th leads Mets against Rays



NEW YORK
(AP) —

Francisco Álvarez hit a tying three-run homer with two outs in the ninth inning and Pete Alonso hit a game-ending three-run shot in the 10th, giving the New York Mets an improbable 8-7 win over the Tampa Bay Rays on Wednesday night.

New York trailed 2-0 before Mark Vientos, a rookie brought up from the minors for his season debut, tied the score with a two-run homer in the seventh off Ryan Thompson.

Brandon Lowe put the Rays back ahead with a two-run homer off Adam Ottavino in the eighth. Randy Arozarena added an RBI single in the ninth for a 5-2 lead.

Álvarez homered on a sweeper from Jason Adam, a 426-foot shot off the facing of the left-field second deck, to send the game into extra innings. The Rays opened a 7-5 lead when pinch-hitter Harold Ramirez and Josh Lowe had run-scoring singles in the 10th against David Robertson (1-0).

ASTROS 7, CUBS 6

HOUSTON (AP)—Kyle Tucker's two-run single capped a four-run rally in the bottom of the ninth inning and Houston completed a three-game sweep.

Chicago built a 6-1 lead in the fourth behind two early homers from Seiya Suzuki and one by Christopher Morel.

But the Astros roared back late, scoring twice in the eighth before cutting the deficit to one on a two-run homer by Jake Meyers off Keegan Thompson with nobody out in the ninth. Thompson walked pinch-hitter Mauricio Dubón and was replaced by Brandon Hughes (0-2), who was greeted by Jeremy Peña's double.

Hughes intentionally walked Alex Bregman to load the bases before Dubón was thrown out at the plate on a grounder by Yordan Alvarez. Tucker then lined a single to center field. Bregman slid home with the winning run just before catcher Yan Gomes got the tag down. The play was reviewed and the call was confirmed.

DODGERS 7, TWINS 3

LOS ANGELES (AP)—James Outman hit a go-ahead grand slam in the seventh inning and the Los Angeles Dodgers rallied for a 7-3 victory over the Minnesota Twins on Wednesday.

Byron Buxton and Joey Gallo homered for the Twins, who dropped two of the three

in a matchup of division leaders. Gallo left the game with two outs in the ninth after taking a foul ball off his leg.

The Dodgers trailed 3-2 in the seventh before scoring five runs all with two outs. Will Smith tied it after Emilio Pagan walked Miguel Vargas with the bases loaded and Outman put them on top when he drove a first-pitch fastball over the wall in center. It was the rookie outfielder's ninth home run of the season and second career grand slam.

ROYALS 4, PADRES 3

SAN DIEGO (AP)—Vinnie Pasquantino hit a tiebreaking two-run homer off Yu Darvish to lead Kansas City.

Pasquantino's homer to right field, his eighth, and Maikel Garcia's RBI double gave the Royals a 4-1 lead in the sixth inning.

Darvish (2-3) allowed four runs and six hits in 5 1/3 innings.

Many in the crowd of 32,416 booed the Padres after Scott Barlow retired the side in the ninth for his sixth save. San Diego's star-studded lineup went 2 for 9 with runners in scoring position and stranded 12 overall as the Padres lost for the ninth time in 11 games.

DIAMONDBACKS 5, ATHLETICS 3

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP)—Lourdes Gurriel Jr. led off the ninth with a double and scored the go-ahead run on a sacrifice fly by Jose Herrera, and Arizona got its fifth win in six games.

Christian Walker and Corbin Carroll homered as the Diamondbacks took two of three from Oakland in the series despite the bullpen giving up another late lead.

Gurriel led off the ninth with a double off Shintaro Fujinami (1-5) for his seventh straight game with an extra-base hit. Two walks loaded the bases before Herrera's drive to right off Adrian Martinez allowed Gurriel to score easily. Ketel Marte added an RBI single.

ORIOLES 3, ANGELS 1

BALTIMORE (AP)—Kyle Bradish pitched impressively into the seventh inning and Austin Hays homered to lift Baltimore.

Mike Trout went deep for the Angels, but they fell back to .500 with their eighth loss in 11 games.

Bradish (2-1) allowed a run and four hits in 6 2/3 innings against the team that drafted him. He struck out five without a walk. Danny Coulombe, Yennier Cano and Félix Bautista got the final seven outs, with Bautista working the ninth for his



New York Mets' Pete Alonso (20) celebrates as he runs the bases after hitting the game winning three-run home run during the tenth inning of a baseball game Wednesday, May 17, 2023, in New York.

11th save in 14 chances.

MARLINS 4, NATIONALS 3

MIAMI (AP)—Jorge Soler hit a go-ahead home run for the second straight game, and Miami held off Washington.

With the Marlins trailing 2-1, Luis Arraez led off the fourth with a single before Soler sent MacKenzie Gore's first pitch to left-center for his 11th home run of the season. That came a day after Soler drove a 3-2 pitch over the wall in left-center for a 5-4 win in the series opener for his first career walk-off shot.

Bryan De La Cruz gave Miami a two-run cushion in the sixth with an RBI double against Gore (3-3). De La Cruz stretched his hitting streak to a career-high 11 games.

Washington pulled within 4-3 in the seventh on Alex Call's run-scoring grounder.

BRAVES 6, RANGERS 5

ARLINGTON, Texas (AP)—Orlando Arcia hit a tiebreaking solo homer with two outs in the ninth inning and NL East-leading Atlanta avoided consecutive series losses for the first time this season.

Ronald Acuña Jr. homered in his fourth consecutive game for the Braves, and Eddie Rosario had a two-run shot in the second that ended Texas starter Nathan Eovaldi's scoreless streak at 29 2/3 innings.

Adolis García went deep twice for AL West leader Texas, those solo shots extending his MLB-best RBI total to 46.

The Braves won two of three in Texas after getting swept in three games at Toronto last weekend.

Atlanta tied the game at 5 in the eighth when Ozzie Albies had an RBI single and Austin Riley drove him home with

a double that chased reliever Josh Sborz. Arcia's fourth homer of the season came off Brock Burke (2-2).

GIANTS 7, PHILLIES 4

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Thairo Estrada hit a tiebreaking RBI single as part of a three-run eighth inning and San Francisco completed a three-game sweep.

Wilmer Flores and Casey Schmitt each had two-run singles, and Blake Sabol and Brandon Crawford also drove in runs as the Giants won their sixth straight game against the Phillies.

Bryson Stott homered for Philadelphia, which lost its fourth in a row.

With the game tied at 4, J.D. Davis and Mitch Haniger began the eighth inning with pinch-hit singles. Joey Bart followed with a bunt single to load the bases. After Gregory Soto (1-3) retired LaMonte Wade Jr., Estrada looped a single to shallow center field, scoring the go-ahead run. Flores added a two-run single.

The Phillies loaded the bases with two outs in the ninth, but Camilo Doval struck out Trea Turner swinging to record his third straight save in the series and his 11th in 12 chances this season.

BLUE JAYS 3, YANKEES 0, 10 INNINGS

TORONTO (AP)—Danny Jansen hit a three-run homer in the 10th inning and the Toronto Blue Jays beat the New York Yankees 3-0 on Wednesday night.

Long after Blue Jays starter Chris Bassitt and Yankees ace Gerrit Cole exited a scoreless duel, Jansen's fourth homer of the season came on the first pitch he saw from reliever Wandy Peralta (2-1).

Whit Merrifield reached on shortstop Anthony Volpe's error to begin the bottom of the 10th as automatic runner Cavan Biggio advanced from second to third.

New York moved left fielder Oswaldo Cabrera into the infield, and Alejandro Kirk grounded out to shortstop before Jansen followed with his game-winning drive to left.

Toronto closer Jordan Romano (3-2) tossed two hitless innings for the win.

CARDINALS 3, BREWERS 0

ST. LOUIS, Mo. (AP)—Matthew Liberatore tossed five scoreless innings in his season debut and Paul DeJong homered to lead the St. Louis to its eighth win in 10 games.

Milwaukee has dropped two of three following a three-game winning streak.

Nolan Arenado added a run-scoring hit for St. Louis, which remains in last place in the NL Central for the 22nd successive day after winning the division last season.

ROCKIES 11, REDS 6

DENVER (AP)—Elias Díaz drove in three runs and Kris Bryant, Jurickson Profar and Brenton Doyle each had two RBIs in a two-inning, 11-run outburst for Colorado.

The Rockies sent 19 batters to the plate and recorded 10 hits while scoring five times in the fifth and six more times in the sixth. Doyle's two-run triple put Colorado ahead to stay in its 11th win in 16 games.

Reds starter Graham Ashcraft (2-2) was charged with seven runs and 10 hits in five-plus innings.

WHITE SOX 7, GUARDIANS 2

CHICAGO (AP)—Jake

Burger and Gavin Sheets both homered for the second straight game, leading Chicago past Cleveland.

Burger added a triple and single for the White Sox, who have posted consecutive victories against the Guardians and won for the third time in four games. Andrew Vaughn also went deep for Chicago.

Mike Clevinger (3-3) tossed six-plus effective innings to beat Cleveland, his original team, for the first time. He gave up two runs and six hits with four walks and five strikeouts.

Tim Anderson, Andrew Benintendi and Yasmani Grandal each had two hits in Chicago's 12-hit attack as the White Sox followed up on a 16-hit, 8-3 win on Tuesday.

PIRATES 8, TIGERS 0

DETROIT (AP)—Rich Hill gave up one hit in six innings, Austin Hedges drove in three runs and Pittsburgh rolled past Detroit.

The 43-year-old Hill (4-3), the oldest active player in the majors, allowed just Matt Vierling's infield single and two walks while striking out seven. A trio of relievers completed the shutout as Pittsburgh won for just the third time in 15 games.

Rodolfo Castro homered and knocked in two runs, while Bryan Reynolds contributed three hits and scored two runs.

Tigers starter Eduardo Rodríguez (4-3), who had allowed just two runs in his previous six starts, gave up four runs and six hits in five innings.

Detroit manager A.J. Hinch was ejected for the first time this season during the fourth inning. He was tossed by home plate umpire Nic Lentz for arguing balls and strikes.

RED SOX 12, MARINERS 3

BOSTON (AP)—Pablo Reyes doubled twice for a career-high four RBIs to lead Boston.

Justin Turner had a two-run homer, Rafael Devers and Kiké Hernández also each drove in two runs and right-hander Brayan Bello (3-1) won on his 24th birthday, allowing one run on three hits in five innings with five walks and seven strikeouts.

Left-hander Marco González (3-1) took the loss, lasting just 1 2/3 innings. He gave up eight runs on eight hits and two walks.

The Red Sox took a 9-0 lead after two innings, sending eight batters to the plate in the first inning and 10 in the second.

Boys All Star v-ball game tomorrow

By LEIGH GASES

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REPORTER



The Northern Marianas Volleyball Association and school team coaches have organized a boys volleyball All Star game for tomorrow, 10am, at the Agape Gymnasium.

NMIVA board member Shawn Davis said in an email that the chosen players from each high school varsity team of the PSS Boys High School Volleyball 2022-2023 season will showcase their skills in a 3-out-of-5 set match.

The following players below from each school will represent two All-Star teams in their game tomorrow.

Omari Joab, Will Sosa, Daniel Nam, and Kyle Kramer from Saipan International School; Jin Tao, Franz Abadilla, Vince Guilas, and Jiahao Chen from Saipan Southern High School; Bill Li, Caleb Cui, David Zhao, Allen Luo, and Hudson Tan from Agape Christian School; Sui Yi, Kyle Moon, Jasper Hall, Jiahao Yang, and Akira Ota from Grace Christian

LEIGH GASES
Marianas High School's John Justo, leaping in blue, is chosen as one out of the all-star players in the high school boys volleyball All-Star program under NMIVA which will have a game tomorrow morning at 10am in the Agape Gymnasium.



Academy; Earle "Gabby" San Nicolas, Brandon Lee, and Minsoo Kwon from Mount Carmel School; Jerome Marzon, Dylan Mister, Mokyang Kim, John Justo, and Lowell Lumauag from Marianas High School, the 2022-2023 boys high school volleyball champions; Anthony Kubo and Patricio Blas from Kagan High School; and Landen Atalig, Brylle Reyel, and

Rainier Ruiz from Dr. Rita H. Inos High School.

Davis said of the chosen players, "These student athletes are full of talent, sportsmanship, and make an impact as leaders to their peers."

"As we support these students in their demonstration of athleticism we would like to thank Marianas High School and Agape Christian School for working with us in providing an

avenue to train. We would also like to acknowledge the coaches, referees and technical officials who have given their time to support the implementation of the All-Star program."

The purpose of the program is to highlight the skills that exist on each team beyond the first and second place teams at the end of the season. The selected players have trained with a cast of coaches for a

period of six training sessions totaling 14 hours.

According to Davis, "each team's coach was asked in the first week of May to submit

their Top 4 setters and liberos, to be entered onto a ballot. This ballot was sent out to all the coaches to vote for the Top 4 setters and liberos."

Marianas Tourism 5K participant sponsorship very much welcomed



Registration is still open for the Marianas Tourism Month 5K Fun Run set for this coming Saturday, May 20, at Garapan Fishing Base, with some registrants being sponsored.

Companies are invited to sponsor runners and walkers for the event, organized by the Marianas Visitors Authority in a show of support for The Marianas' primary industry. Of approximately 100 registered participants to date, a number have had their \$10 registration sponsored by a local company.

"We invite local businesses and organizations to sponsor a few participants for the Tourism 5K this year as we gather for a morning of exercise and to show our support for tourism and all the benefits it brings our community," said MVA managing director Christopher A. Concepcion. "Also, we have some exciting cash prizes in store, and all proceeds of the fun run will benefit one of our valu-

able partners, Mariana Islands Nature Alliance, who works to enhance the natural beauty of our islands that our visitors rave about so much."

Interested sponsors may contact MVA Community Projects specialist Jack Aranda at 1.670.664.3200/1 or communityprojects@mymarianas.com for a sponsorship form. Online registration is open at racerooster.com/events/2023/75098/marianas-tourismmonth-5k-fun-run. Registration will also be held at the starting line on the day of the run beginning at 6am, with the fun run proceeding south on Saipan Beach Road Pathway to Quartermaster Road and back. M2 Fitness Strong Zumba Movers will conduct a 20-minute warmup at the starting line at 6:30am.

Participants are invited to dress as a tourist for a chance to win cash prizes for the best tourist costume, \$300 for first place, \$200 for second place, and \$100 for third place. Cash prizes will also be awarded for

the Top 3 male and female finishers, \$150 for first place, \$100 for second place, and \$50 for third place, respectively. The first 100 registrants will also receive a limited edition Marianas Tourism Month T-shirt. (PR)

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Participants join the Walk for Tourism 5K on May 22, 2021 on Saipan.



Martech-Ol'Aces-A's Car Air Conditioning are No. 1 seeds

By MARK RABAGO

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ASSOCIATE EDITOR



Martech-Ol'Aces and A's Car Air Conditioning are the top seeds in the playoffs of the open and masters divisions, respectively, of the 2nd Annual Saipan Centennial Lions Basketball League last Monday.

Ol'Aces finished the regular season with a 9-1 win-loss record, followed by New Changming Market (8-2), Puerto

Rico Bento (7-3), Ali'i (7-3), The Game (5-5), Susan's Catering (5-5), JTM Saipan (5-5), K2 Ballerz (4-6), Lakay (3-7), Checkpoint International (1-9), and Socho Team (1-9).

A's Car Air Conditioning was 6-1 in the masters division with Blue Haus second with the same mark but lost to the latter in the eliminations. Ol'Aces (5-2), Blue Eagle/Royal Pacific (4-3), JSN Enterprises (3-4), Pepoy's Cafe & Restaurant (3-4), Double A Constriction (1-6), and RNV Construction (0-7) make up the rest of

the teams.

The playoffs start tonight at the Civic Center Basketball Court with the higher seed teams taking on the lower seed teams in crossover matchups.

In last Tuesday's makeup games, Martech-Ol'Aces finished the season with a 84-63 win over Socho, while the other matchup saw Puerto Rico Bento secure the second spot with an 82-67 win over K2 Ballerz.

Puerto Rico Bento 82 – Mintac 33, Foronda 24, Antonio 10, Reyes 6, Estimado 3.

K Ballerz 67 – Santos 21, Palmes 13, Satur 10, Dikito 6, Pua 6, Kaipat 4, Espiritu 3, Faisao 2, Taitingfong 2.

Scoring by quarters: 18-14, 40-32, 62-52, 82-67.

Martech-Ol'Aces 84 – Schmidt 22, P. Basa 18, Kabiriel 11, Pelisamen 10, Atan 8, Diaz 6, T. Basa 5, Onopwy 4.

Socho Team 63 – Q. Faisao 20, Nakaifes 12, D. Faisao 12, Taisague 6, Philips 6, Quitugua 4, Iguel 3.

Scoring by quarters: 18-16, 44-39, 65-51, 84-63.

7 PICKED

From Page 24

are Taiyo Akimaru, Kean Pajarillaga, and Jinie Thompson.

"World Aquatics is sponsoring swimmers and we got wildcards to attend. They provide some funding and for Fukuoka we got four spots and for Israel we only got three spots," he said.

Sikkel said all swimmers went through selection trials where candidates swam eight events in the 50m and 100m distances.

"We just ran their times and those who won the most first places were ranked first. For the boys it was Isaiah, Jakey, Kean, and Taiyo. For the girls, it was Maria, Shoko, and Jinie," said Sikkel.

Aleksenko is honored to represent the CNMI again in the World Championships.

"For my goals I want to

get FINA A time for backstroke and butterfly," said the 17-year-old Marianas High School student.

Deleon Guerrero, for his part, since the World Championships is his first and last official swim competition in his high school career, he will certainly strive to cut his personal best times.

"I would like to thank my family, in particular, my mom and grandma who pushed me to get back into swimming since I quit at the end of 8th grade, but came back in 11th grade," said the graduating senior from MHS.

Batallones said her goals in the Tokyo meet are to set personal best times and hopefully break records.

"Another of my goals is to meet new people from all over the world and hopefully build bonds. I wish to dedicate this to the whole CNMI because I want to represent

us well," said the 15-year-old MHS sophomore.

Like Batallones, Litulumar also sets her sights in resetting records in Japan.

"Yes, my parents do support me, yes my coach helps me improve, but in the end, the one working to achieve it is myself. So I would like to self-appreciate and dedicate my making the team to myself," said the 16-year-old student at MHS.

Akimaru said he plans to reset CNMI national records in the Junior World Championships in Israel.

"I want to dedicate this selection to my coaches who really worked with my swims... We will try our best as the national team that represents NMI in the Junior World Championships!" said the 17-year-old student at MHS.

Pajarillaga said he also would like to break records in the Ju-

nior World Championships.

"I want to dedicate this selection to my mom, coach, and friends," said the 16-year-old student from Grace Christian Academy.

Thompson said her goals in Israel are to beat her previous World Champion-

ship times as well as always give her all in every race she swims.

"Not only am I excited for the events, but I am excited to meet the many amazing swimmers from all over the world. I dedicate this to my family who never fail to

support me, my teammates that get me through tough practices and encourage me through wins and losses, and my coach who pushes me to my limits and gets me to where I need to go in this sport," said the 17-year-old student from MHS.

REYES

From Page 24

Santos, and Franko Nakamura are all tied with two each.

Josenio Alvarez leads the league with three triples; Ben Leon Guerrero, Brian Camacho, and Saralu have two each; while Kimo Angailan, Jordan Suel, Henry Aguon, Jobe Reyes, Harry Nakamura, J-Boy Mendiola, and Eli Aughenbaugh are tied with one.

Henry Lizama and Saralu have hit the season's only home runs with one each.

The most runs batted in are Nathan Camacho and Masaharu with nine each; Brian Camacho and Mira have eight each; Jerald Cabrera, Saralu, and Yamada are tied with seven; while Harry Nakamura and Alvarez have six each.

The Cardinals lead the team standings with six wins; Falcons are 4-1; Bears are 3-1; Natives are 4-2; Jr. Nationals have an even 2-2 record; Braves are 2-3; Blue Jays have a 2-4 record; the Bandits, Brewers, and Survivors are 1-3; and the D-9ers have yet to win with four losses.

KAUTZ

From Page 24

hole No. 15.

Das Krishnan brought the lumber in hole No. 5 to win the longest drive in that hole, while Mariano Fajardo did the same in hole No. 10.

The SGA 2023 May Ace of the Month Tournament is scheduled this Sunday, May 21, at LaoLao Bay Golf & Resort's west course. Tee time is 9:30am with a show time an hour earlier at 9am.



Butler scores 35,
Heat rally to beat
Celtics in East finals
opener.
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SaipanTribune Sports

Boys All Star
v-ball game
tomorrow.

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24 FRIDAY, MAY 19, 2023

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

7 picked for World, Jr. World Championships



By **MARK RABAGO**
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

The Northern Marianas Islands Swimming Federation has picked seven swimmers to make up the CNMI national swimming teams for the 20th FINA World Championships in Fukuoka, Japan in July and the 9th FINA Junior World Championships in Netanya, Israel in September.



NMISF director Richard Sikkel said selected to the Fukuoka meet are Isaiah Aleksenko, Jakey Deleon Guerrero, Maria Batallones, and Shoko Litulumar, while picked for the Netanya meet

See 7 **PICKED** on **Page 23**

From left clockwise, Isaiah Aleksenko, Jakey Deleon Guerrero, Taiyo Akimaru, Kean Pajarillaga, Jinie Thompson, Maria Batallones, and Shoko Litulumar after practice at the Pacific Islands Club Saipan pool.

Kautz captures April ace

By **MARK RABAGO**
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR



Rick Kauz won the Saipan Golfers Association April Ace

of the Month Tournament last April 16 at the LaoLao Bay Golf & Resort's east course.

The longtime businessman carded a net score of 64 to win the monthly championship. The 12-handicapper fired the score to beat after swinging for a 37 in the first nine holes before returning to the clubhouse with a 39 for a gross of 76.

Alex Tudela finished second with his net 71 built around a 40 in the front nine and a 42 in the back nine—good for a gross of 82—for



Kautz

the 11-handicapper.

Attorney General Edward Manibusan actually finished tied with Tudela for second but lost via scorecard tie-breaker. The 9-handicapper shot a 40 in the first go-around before improving by a stroke for a 39 in the last nine holes for a gross of 79.

With the win in April, Kautz now joins SGA 2023 Ace of Aces Tournament early qualifiers Ray Salas (January), Das Krishnan (February), and Joe Sablan (March).

In the closest to the pin competition, Kautz was two times a winner by winning hole No. 4, while his best friend Nick Sablan ruled the roost in hole No. 6. Larry Deleon Guerrero was without peer in hole No. 11 with Joe Sablan taking a victory lap in

See **KAUTZ** on **Page 23**

Reyes leads pitching; Teigita tops batting in SBL

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REPORTER



The SPC Survivors' Jason Reyes

is the pitching leader, while the Braves' Isaiah Teigita is the batting leader as of May 12 in the Tan Holdings-Saipan Baseball League 2023 season.

Reyes has played four games, pitched 14.2 innings, has zero earned runs, nine hits against him, has a 1-0 win loss record, and zero earned run average.

Second is the Cardinals' Nathan Guerrero with two games pitched, nine innings under his belt, zero ER, three hits, 2-0 record, and also zero ERA.

Third is the CK Bears' Virgil Secharmidal with four games, 12 innings pitched, zero ER, four hits, a 2-0 re-

cord, and also zero ERA.

The most strikeouts belong to the hitting leader Teigita with 21; next is M.J. Sakisat and Secharmidal with 19; R.J. Riungel has 18; Tony Be-

navente has 17; Angelo Igitol and Reyes both have 15; and Henry Fleming and Kevin Kapileo both have 13.

On the offensive side, Teigita is also a beast with

11 hits out of 17 at-bats for a .647 batting average.

The Cardinals' Nokki Saralu is second with 12 hits for 23 at-bats and has a .522 average. Teammate Brian Camacho is third as he went 10-for-20 and has a .500 average tied with Henry Aguon who also has a .500 average with 6 out of 12 at-bats.

Saralu has the most runs scored with 15; Shane Yamada has 10; Eli Aughenbaugh, Jerald Cabrera, and Tiegita are tied with nine; Jonathan Wilson and Nathan Camacho are tied with eight; and A.J. Evangelista and Giovanni Mira both have seven.

Jr. Suel and Poland Masaharu are tied with three for the most doubles; Henry Lizama, Joe Lizama, Teigita, Andrew Camacho, Vicente Camacho, Larson Sibetang, Saralu, Brian Camacho, Nathan Camacho, Jerald Cabrera, Yamada, Byron Kaipat, Jerome Delos

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SPC Survivors pitcher Jason Reyes is the leading pitcher so far in the Tan Holdings-Saipan Baseball League 2023 season as of May 12.